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Fearless Roos Ready to Tackle Hosts



By Peter Damalas

The Young Socceroos have cast aside serious doubts about the status of youth development in the country by scoring the upset of the tournament in a 3-2 defeat of World Youth Championship favourites Brazil.

Despite conceding two goals in the second half, a double from attacking midfielder Anthony Danze in the first half, and another from defender Spase Dilevski

ensured that Australia qualified for the second round as Group C winners.

The win ranks among the highest achievements of Australia's national teams in the recent past, including the 4-3 win over champions elect Argentina in the 1997 World Youth Championships, the Joeys second place finish in the Under 17s world championships in 1999, and victories over France, Brazil and England by the senior squad.

Coach Ange Postecoglou may feel that his decision to make four changes to the

starting eleven was vindicated, which included shifting captain Scott McDonald to the bench.

"It was a great night," said Postecoglou. "It [the match] gave the players that little extra bit of belief. "Everyone that watched the game said that we deserved that victory because of the football we played. But there is still games to go and we want to progress as far as we can," he said.

Australia opened the scoring in the 30th minute when Danze's shot from twenty metres flew into the back of

the net. Midfielder Dustin Wells was involved in both goals, and his shot on 37 minutes cannoned off the post before being deflected into the path of Danze, who tapped the ball home.

It is remarkable to consider that Australia's latest soccer hero is struggling to find a first team berth in the Perth Glory squad.

"I came here with a few things to prove to myself and to the people back home so hopefully I have started doing it and hopefully I can keep doing it," he told the Australian Soccer

Association website.

With three minutes gone in the second half, Dilevski made the game practically safe by finishing off a move that he initiated with striker Alex Brosque.

Australia finished the group undefeated on seven points, and meet the United Arab Emirates in the second round on Wednesday morning Eastern Standard Time.

The Young Socceroos played the hosts twice in October, drawing the first and winning the second match 2-0.

Schaefer's Great Honour

By Joe Russo

Former Socceroo player and current assistant coach of Parramatta Power, Manfred Schaefer, received perhaps one of greatest honours from FIFA when he was invited to participate in the 2006 World Cup qualifying draw held in Frankfurt, Germany last Friday.

Ferrari Formula One racing driver Michael Schumacher, world famous singer Sting and the legendary Pele, were just some others that also got to participate in the gala event which was screened live in over 100 countries worldwide.

Schaefer, one of the 1974 Socceroos, competed in Germany in that memorable, and still only, World Cup appearance for Australia. He was absolutely thrilled and surprised to be invited back for such a great occasion.

"Surprised is an understatement. I was surprised to be in the limelight again and to be actually asked back [to Germany] to help out with the 2006 draw is unbelievable," Schaefer said on Sunday

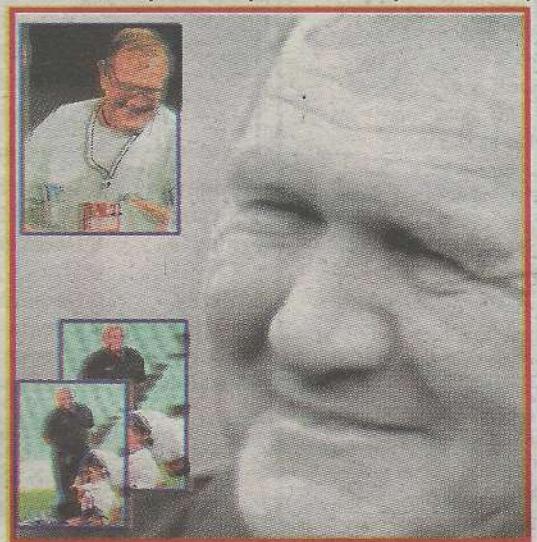
Night Soccer on 98.5 FM last week.

"No one in my memory has ever been asked from Australia, at least as far as players are concerned. It is a tremendous honour for me."

Schaefer is fondly remembered in Germany, the country

in Germany, the organising committee, which is led by the great Franz Beckenbauer, decided to extend an invitation to the affable Parramatta Power assistant coach to participate in the draw.

Schaefer was born in what was formerly East Germany



From Germany with love — Manfred Schaefer
(Images By Carlos Furtado)

of his birth, from the 1974 World Cup.

Given that the 2006 tournament is once again to be held

before moving to Bremen in West Germany at the age of three. His family migrated to Australia when he was 11

years old where he has remained ever since.

So what were his fondest memories of that memorable 1974 World Cup?

"There were only 16 countries at that World Cup and England didn't even make it. When the draw came out it was West Germany, East Germany and Chile that Australia had to face," he said.

"The interest was suddenly there because there's this young kid who was born in the East, lived in the West and then came to Australia as a kid and then suddenly was playing against the might of West Germany, who ended up as world champions, and East Germany, who at the time were also starting to become one of the top soccer nations."

The interest in Schaefer was unprecedented. Rarely, if ever, had the European media of the day shown any interest in any Australian soccer player.

"I had two television crews [from Germany] follow me in Australia in the lead up to the tournament and one followed me for two weeks. A 50 minute tape was released in

Europe and from there it just steamrolled," he said.

"I wrote for a newspaper in Hamburg but I didn't have the courage to tell them I was a Liverpool supporter. I then had to catch up with all the names and everything else, because I had to show them that I knew something about German football."

Schaefer's heritage earned him not only fame beyond expectation, but also allowed him to develop a special bond with some of the great West German players. One in particular, the great striker Gerd Muller, became fairly close to Schaefer during the 74 World Cup.

"With Gerd Muller I did talkback and television interviews so I got to know him quite well. In one interview he asked me how much we were getting for the World Cup and when I told him, he said he was getting that everyday. So the next time someone asked me I just said 'amateur'.

"However, the money had no part in it for me whatsoever. It was just the thrill of being there [that mattered] and it was a different different world."

FIFA FOOL OCEANIA - AGAIN

By Luke Doherty

FIFA launched another knife into the back of the Oceania football confederation last week, — deciding to keep its current qualification format, whereby the winner of the Oceania group plays the 5th ranked South American team.

The decision means that Oceania is still the only federation without a full qualifying spot for the World Cup.

Australian soccer representatives were hoping for a rosier outcome but the Bureau of the Organising committee for the World cup — chaired by Australia's favourite son Sepp Blatter — shot down Oceania's proposals.

The draw will once again see the 4th ranked Central and North American team play the 5th ranked Asian team while Oceania's winner, most likely the Socceroos, face the possibility of a re-match with the likes of Uruguay, who foiled their 2002 world cup aspirations.

There is still a glimmer of light however, at the end of what has become a dark and gloomy tunnel to the World Cup.

The fact is that the Socceroos still have a chance at playing on International soccer's biggest stage. The ASA was so keen to have its interests represented that they sent a Michael Thomson; a lawyer who was formerly the CEO of FIFA's marketing operations, to the meeting.

What Australian soccer has ended up with now is one of the most illogical qualifying routes of any team in world football. Oceania representatives gave FIFA two proposals too look over in the months

leading up to the meeting but FIFA said that a lack of sufficient time meant that they would stick to the current format.

The first idea was to have Oceania's winner play the 5th ranked Asian team — for obvious geographical reasons while CONCACAF would play against the South Americans.

Failing that, the second proposal would have seen the 4th ranked CONCACAF team, the 5th placed CONMEBOL and Asian teams and Oceania's



A comic depicting FIFA President Sepp Blatter

winner play in a mini tournament with the first and second placed teams taking spot numbers 31 and 32 at the world cup.

FIFA has already shown its unwillingness to disappoint CONMEBOL officials.

In June this year FIFA decided to take half a spot away from South America so that Oceania would be given a full place. But the decision didn't sit well with CONMEBOL, who already have four direct entry positions.

The home and away legs are to be played in November of 2005 and the Socceroos now face the arduous task of being the first Australian soccer side to make the World Cup for 32 years.

What's Inside ABSW This Week:

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DON'T MISS OUT COLOUR POSTERS ON REAL MADRID AND HEAD SHOTS OF THE YOUNG ROOS
 Plus all Round 12 National League action with reports and statistics alongside ABSW's weekly gossip column 'From The Dressing Sheds.'

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BY DANIEL KUZIOW

Livingston's Aussie captain, Stuart Lovell, is seeking talks with Chairman Dominic Keane to find out if the West Lothian club are in danger of following Dundee into administration.

Lovell told the Herald.co.uk: "I read some articles in the Press over the weekend and it's scary stuff, it really is. My concern is that other clubs weren't paying much attention to what happened at Motherwell because it's happened again.

"There's a huge amount of sympathy for everyone at Dundee, but from our own selfish point of view, we want to find out if things are okay at Livingston.

"I'm hoping to have a chat with our chairman at some stage, just to clarify the situation. I haven't really spoken to the other players and no-one's approached me to ask, but for my own peace of mind, I would like to pass on some comforting news to them. To be honest, I don't expect any horror stories from the chairman."

Mark Schwarzer has warned his team-mates they can't afford to waste a golden opportunity for UEFA Cup qualification.

The Middlesbrough keeper is determined to make his European dream come true on Teesside.

"You want to win things - I want to play European football and I'd like to do that with Middlesbrough," he said.

"It's difficult in the league, although sixth spot is achievable. But the ambition is always there and we know we could do it this year through the cup."

Meanwhile manager Steve McClaren has used statistics to back up his argument that Schwarzer is one of the best goalkeepers around.

The Middlesbrough boss is delighted with Schwarzer's contribution to the season so far - and the giant Aussie kept his fourth clean sheet in a row against Manchester City last week.

That run is Boro's best in the top division since 1975, but



Harry Kewell: The Liverpool mid-fielder has been praised by his manager Gerard Houllier.

McClaren is equally impressed by the figures which show Schwarzer has caught the ball more than any other keeper in the Premiership so far this season.

"Some people have questioned Mark's ability to come for crosses and dominate his area," said McClaren.



Mark Schwarzer: Desperate to secure a birth in next season's European club competitions.

"But we've been looking at the stats and they dispel the theory. And he's obviously been crucial to our defensive record over the last 10 games or so."

★★★

Derby County have reportedly handed a trial to young Aussie mid-fielder David Brickell.

Rams boss George Burley is said to be impressed with the Rockdale City Suns' ace and could be ready to hand him a contract in January.

Burley is currently battling to keep his young side out of the drop zone, and their 3-1 win over Wimbledon at the weekend saw them move two places and two points outside of the bottom three.

The Pride Park outfit are strapped for cash and Burley is always on the look-out for bargain additions to his squad, and has taken an interest in Brickell.

★★★

Luke Wilshire's former flat-mate, Aussie Brad Jones could hardly have played a worse host during their reunion last weekend.

The 22-year-old Australian was full of menace in central midfield in arguably his best outing since arriving from Middlesbrough.

But Wilshire's party was spoilt by Blackpool's keeper Brad Jones, who proved less than accommodating to his old mate.

The two players are in the Australian Under-23 side and became close friends after sharing digs on Teesside when they both arrived in England.

Jones, on loan from Boro, failed to lay the welcome mat out however. His man-of-the-match performance between the sticks played a major part in denying City a third successive win.

Wilkshire said: "We're good mates unfortunately! I knew he was a good goalkeeper and it would be tough to beat him and that certainly proved to be the case.

"He was man-of-the-match and won the game for them.

"We lived together in digs in Middlesbrough and go way back - we're both Aussies, but he's from Perth and I'm from Sydney.

"He made some very good saves, but I think we're still pals.

"I won't be able to catch up with him tonight though as he's heading back up north and we're going south."

In related news Jones has extended his loan spell at Blackpool by another month.

The 21-year-old has made five first-team appearances for Steve McMahon's side after arriving from The Riverside early last month.

Last season's regular keeper Phil Barnes has been out-of-favour and last week handed in a transfer request.

"I'm delighted with Brad," McMahon told the club's official website. "He is an Aussie, which is probably the only minus point, but in general he has done very, very well."

★★★

Liverpool boss Gerard Houllier has lavished praise upon in-form forward Harry Kewell.

Kewell moved to Anfield from



Leeds over the summer for £5 million and already has 8 goals to his name this season.

Red's boss Gerard Houllier is delighted so far with his asset sees no reason why Kewell can't continue on his current vein of form.

He told thisisanfield.com "Harry can beat people and score goals; he has scored a second header in two games."

"I like his work and stamina and the fact that he plays for the team, a star player is always a team player first."

★★★

The Independent newspaper reports that Manchester United manager, Sir Alex Ferguson, is ready to make an official £5m offer for the Leeds striker Mark Viduka when the transfer window opens in January.

Ferguson is interested in acquiring the skilful but erratic Australian as he looks for variety in his attack. Viduka would be the most controversial signing Ferguson has made since Eric

Cantona made the same trip across the Pennines a decade ago, but despite his temperament, which caused clashes with the former Leeds manager Peter Reid, Viduka has so much talent that he appeals to Ferguson.

However in the wake of such reports, Viduka's manager Andrea D'Amico insisted that no formal contact had yet been made between the Red Devils and the former Melbourne Knights star.

"There is nothing to talk about with regards to Manchester United," he said to ITV- football.co.uk. "We have not heard anything or been in contact with anyone."

"When something does happen or is happening we will talk about it, but there is nothing at this moment."



Mark Viduka: Could the Leeds United player be on his way to Manchester United?



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TASKFORCE RELEASES ANSWERS

By Mark Stavroulakis

It's been almost two months now and finally the Australian soccer public have seen the final results from the NSL taskforce regarding a shape-up of next year's proposed new Australian Premier League.

All thirteen National League clubs grew a sense of fear as the future had yet to be told by the eight-person taskforce that was announced by Australian

Soccer chairman Frank Lowy. Former Socceroos Johnny Warren, Jack Reilly and Charlie Yankos, Former Sydney City chairman Andrew Kemeny, Former director of Soccer Australia Cheryl Bart, current chairman of the NSL Remo Nogarotto and former PFA chief Brendan Schwab have all been chosen to lead the new taskforce in improving our Australian soccer league.

It took time for the National League clubs to see an answer and finally it arrived. The tasks that the board

looked at were: the structure of the league, its name, criteria to be met by participating clubs, the best playing season and the time frame for the implementation of the proposed new competition.

The taskforce consulted with existing clubs and other interested parties on the structure of the new league, including how best to attract overseas-based Australians and stem the outflow of local players to overseas clubs.

It's simply not a 'fix it' problem that could be done in a matter of weeks, however the clubs did have the right to express their dissatisfaction of the delay in what is needed for each club to be part of the new league next season.

South Melbourne chief Mark Patterson vented his frustration and has called on the ASA to make public the findings of the taskforce about a new National League.

"Patterson told 'The Age', 'We would need to know sooner rather than later what the future holds.'

"We need to know what the format will be, how many teams will be in the league, what the commercial arrangements are.

"Until we know these things, it is hard for us to plan for the future. We know there are no guarantees for anyone's position in the league after this season, but we believe as a club we have a lot to offer any competition that is established and we are working on strategies to be part of it", ended Patterson.

It's been rumoured that the league will take a ten-team stance thus eliminating clubs mainly from the Sydney area.

It will eventuate as a dogfight between which clubs will be able to proceed in next season's league from the Sydney region.

Sydney Olympic, Parramatta Power, Sydney United, Marconi Stallions and Northern Spirit are all vying for spots next year - as are NSW regional clubs Wollongong Wolves and Newcastle United. It is not known whether Melbourne will have both the Knights and South together, while Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth will also be assessed.

New Zealand side the Football Kingz will be a team that will be sweating upon the taskforce outcome - pundits have them as one of the first sides to go from next year's competition.

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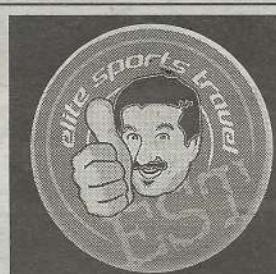
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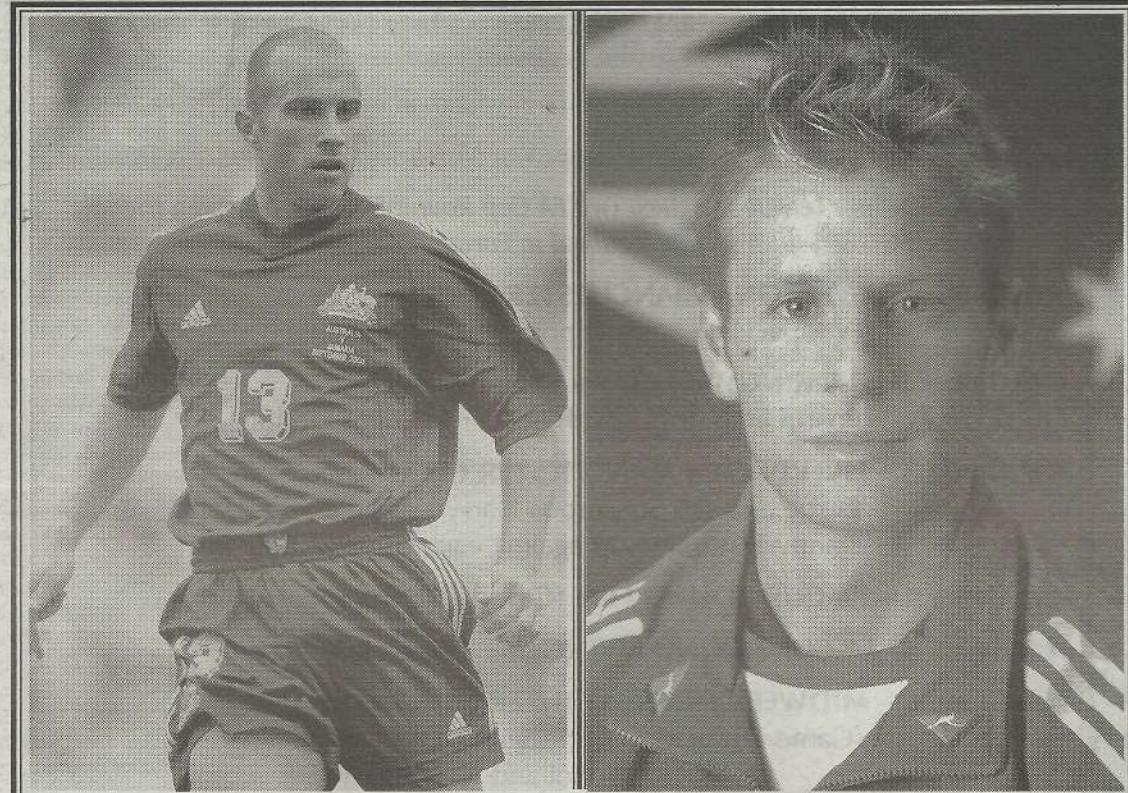
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Australian stars Marco Bresciano and Vince Grella (left) will be the main leaders in the Socceroo pack for the next World Cup campaign in Germany.

Special Comment By Mark Stavroulakis

Having started off as good friends at the age of 11 playing junior soccer in Melbourne, Australian stars Marco Bresciano and Vince Grella have really put this nation on the map in one of the toughest leagues in the world – notably Italy's Serie A.

Known to many for its tactical beauty and its glitz and glamour of players being paid millions of dollars for strutting their stuff on their wonderful turfs, it's been a long time coming since any Australian has made any impact in Italian football.

Current Socceroo coach Frank Farina and skipper Paul Okon both had their moment of glory squaring up with A-Class internationals in Italy however both

failed to make that break-through like Bresciano and Grella did.

It's rather ironic that Okon, current Socceroo captain, stands in the way of Grella's progress towards gaining a starting spot in the Australian side.

A pioneer for starting the trend of Australians moving to Italy, Okon played for Fiorentina and Lazio before moving to England – now Okon plays his football back in the boot-shaped country with Serie B side Vicenza.

The pair have had almost identical career paths in football, both attended the highly acclaimed Australian Institute of Sport, represented Australia at the Olympic Games in 2000 and also had the pleasure of playing in the National League on the same side with the now defunct Carlton Soccer Club.

Every youngster's dream is to one day

play in the most elite leagues across Europe, this dream was realised by the pair who both departed Australian shores in the late 90's as teenagers and signed for the then Serie B side Empoli FC.

Empoli, set in picturesque Tuscany was to be the Aussie boys launch pad for a successful start to their European careers.

The Serie B was certainly no pushover league for the pair who both did their bits to earn a respectable name at the club and claiming starting eleven positions.

One thing's for sure, it's always a tough task to break even in a foreign squad, but the determination shone brightly for the duo who developed a name of the 'Fearless Aussies', in the Italian press.

The Australians played an integral role in Empoli's promotion to the Serie A in 2002 – this was to be the main year the Melbourne boys were to become recognized.

2002 hit with a bang for both Bresciano and Grella – playing the likes of Juventus, AS Roma, Inter and AC Milan were all achievements made by the lads from down under.

Determination was the key to their initiation period in the Serie A – both had more than just that however – the will to prove people wrong.

Italy's notorious football media had written off Empoli as favourites for the dreaded drop back to Serie B – the Tuscan club proved its critics wrong by finishing in the middle of the Serie A table.

Australia was put officially on the map after the success of both stars but the burning question many asked was whether the pair would fulfil a role as Socceroo stars.

Many Australian officials thought it was a little too early for the pair to do so, but their success in the Serie A should have been more than enough to gain that Green and Gold call-up sooner rather than later.

Bresciano gained his first senior appearance for Australia in 2001 after coming on against World Cup 98' winners France.

Grella won his first Aussie cap this year in Australia's memorable three-one win over England at Upton Park.

Bresciano's career was to turn upside-down for the better after spending a good season with Empoli. One of Italy's strongest clubs Parma realised the potential the Australian star had and snapped him up for a record Australian fee of \$28 million – the most expensive fee ever paid for an Aussie.

It was to be a new beginning for 'Bresc', who only this season has started to come through the fold of playing for his newly adopted club regularly.

One of his highlights this season has been Parma's three-two win over Lazio in Rome earlier in the year.

Bresciano started the match and scored the first and winning goal for his side to gift them the precious three valuable points and also was named as player of the week in various Italian soccer newspapers.

Vincenzo has stayed loyal to the Empoli cause, with the club currently languishing near the bottom of the Serie A table,

Grella has still been its side's standout player – known for his tenacious defending, it's been a tough task to surpass Grella.

Talk has it that Juventus and AC Milan were chasing the signature of Grella, who knows, he's time will also come in playing for a bigger club like best mate Marco.

Whatever the case one thing's for sure the "Fearless Aussies" will certainly play a pivotal role in Australia's lead-up towards its next World Cup campaign in Germany.

Socceroo coach Farina should look no further for his midfield with Vince (24) & Marco (23), these guys will certainly lead the cause for hopefully breaking that 32-year hoodoo of qualifying for the World Cup.

The 24-year-old firmly stated some weeks back to ABSW that he wants to tag down a regular first team spot in Farina's squad and hopes that his progress with Empoli goes unnoticed to the Roo coach.

It's quite unfortunate that the sports media in Australia have failed to highlight the success rate of these two stars rather opting to approach for the common story on Oz stars doing well in England.

Don't get me wrong, it's a wonderful sight to see stars like Harry Kewell, Mark Viduka and co do well in England but it does not make up for a balanced story when we have other successful players doing well in other nations.

Sure it's difficult gaining at least some space for soccer on commercial television stations and newspapers, but when time and space is given, credit should be shown towards those players that have helped this nation develop a name for itself.

Let's not forget big Zeljko 'Spider' Kalac either. The former Sydney United custodian was a regular too for Serie A side Perugia but sustained an injury some weeks back that will keep the hopeful Socceroo keeper sidelined for up to a month.

Remember the names of Bresciano and Grella – but then again – to most soccer followers in this country – these names should be well accustomed as our elite players ever to leave Australia.

DUGDALE CONSIDERS LEGAL ACTION WITH KINGZ

By Mark Stavroulakis

The National League's first coaching casualty Ken Dugdale last week stated that he could go legal after he resigned from the Football Kingz two-weeks ago.

The 53-year-old Englishman gave three months notice to the Kingz management but stated that he was prepared to take charge of the squad that lost six-nil to South Melbourne in the NSL's round 11 clash at Bob Jane Stadium.

"The Kingz management made the decision that I wouldn't be going to Melbourne and removed me from my position," Dugdale told the 'Sunday-Star Times'.

"I'll be talking to my lawyer. I have effectively been sacked because they don't want me with the team as from now".

The former Kiwi Assistant coach stated that the Kingz did give him the chance to either stay with the club acting as a consultant or leave the Kingz with no offer of compensation.

"I'm sure litigation is the last thing they need, but if

my lawyer says I have a case, then we may end up in court."

Published on the Kingz website was the actual resignation letter Dugdale put through with these his main quotes"

"Please be advised that I give you three months notice from the 1st of December, of my intention to resign the position of head coach at Kingz FC.

It is regrettable that I have to tender my resignation, but I can no longer work effectively under the conditions imposed on myself, my support staff most importantly the playing staff. My integrity and standards are compromised and the latest match conditions have caused me to consider my position as unworkable" – Dugdale ended.

Dugdale referred to the "latest match conditions as unworkable" after the New Zealanders had to assemble at the Auckland airport at 3.15am to travel over for

the match in Melbourne.

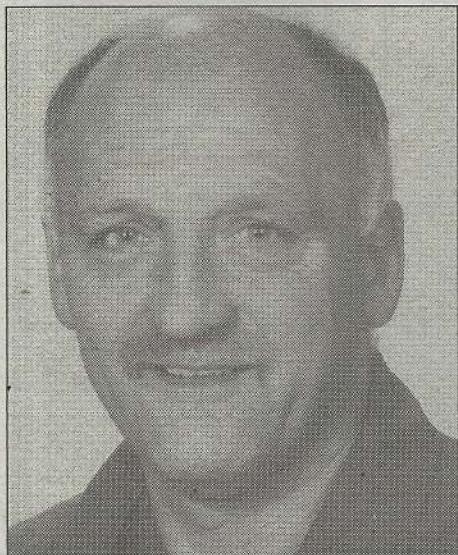
The Kingz returned home last Tuesday meaning the part-time players who had to work were made unavailable for the South Melbourne trip.

Kingz Assistant coach Tommy Mason has taken over the squad temporarily, but the club has stated that a new coach will be named in the coming weeks.

General Manager Peter Cox had this to say about the Dugdale issue" "Our hope is that we can turn the Kingz around and provide the sort of professional environment Ken alludes to in the future.

For now we must face the tough times and make the most of what we have. When that happens I would like to think that Ken would be very much in the picture.

On behalf of all players and staff at the club, we wish him all the best for the future and thank him for his honesty and his efforts with the team."



Ken Dugdale could go legally over his resignation with the Kingz.



"Pathway to Success"

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DOLPHINS SC
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Season 2004**

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Arrive by 6.45pm for 7.00pm start

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For more details please contact
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0413 444 054 or
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TRIAL TIMES: U19'S — 9AM
U21'S — 10.30AM
1st Grade — 12noon

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George Paradisis Mobile **0414 505 805**

**WHERE'S THE
JUSTICE?**

**Special Comment By
Mark Stavroulakis**

Thank God for FIFA! (First In Fooling Australia)

What a waste of time its been for the Australian Socceroo squad trying to get a decent gig out of qualifying for the next World Cup in Germany.

From having FIFA President Sepp Blatter visit our shores contemplating on how we deserved the right to automatically qualify for the next World Cup only to be two-timed by members of FIFA and revert the decision back to playing either a South American or CONCACAF nation.

Alas the decision was made in Frankfurt last week when the brains at FIFA decided to pit the Oceania winners against the fifth placed side from South America over a two-legged series like our last campaign that ended in tatters thanks to the hands of Uruguay.

Nothing's for certain that Australia will be the side representing Oceania with New Zealand coming through the ranks, however with the way our very own Roos have played recently; we certainly are the favourites.

The play-off series will take place in November 2005 on dates to be decided but as a disgruntled writer, it is a shame its come to this process once more.

Why is it that the Asian side that finishes fifth takes on a four placed side from the CONCACAF federation?

Something has to really be done about all this controversy surrounding qualification for the World Cup.

There's no use of crying over spilt milk now that the decision has already been made. What Frank Farina needs to do now is to organize more friendly matches before our big tests next year.

How uncanny is it that from being jubilant about gaining direct access to the World Cup to now having to play-off once more — it really does not balance itself out.

What more must Oceania do to gain a direct spot for any World Cup?

This really is all Greek to me, FIFA are a body that should be helping countries for the better in promoting the game, all they are doing in the Oceania region is killing it with its false dreams and aspirations.

Sure people had their comments about Oceania's direct access was not the best option as it would not prove worthy enough to beat the likes of our Pacific Island nations before tackling the big guns of the world.

Now that the roles have reversed, no doubt those critics will once more have their say in how unfair FIFA's decision has been towards this issue.

Would somebody please tell Sepp that there is such a place as Oceania! Here's to a hopeful spot in Germany 2006.



**HEAD COACH
FEMALE N.T.C PROGRAM**

The Victorian Soccer Federation is seeking applications for Head Coach — (Part time) for the Female N.T.C Program

Duties Include

- In conjunction with the Coaching & Development Manager, design, organise and implement an elite program for Women soccer players in Victoria.
- In conjunction with the VIS establish elite athlete support program.
- Conduct quality group sessions according to program needs.

This is a Tier 2 program affiliated with the V.I.S but under the direct control of the VSF.

Qualifications required

- Minimum State Licence/Level 3 NCAS
- Proven leadership, administration and organisation skills
- Excellent communication skills
- A strong understanding of Youth/Junior Development issues
- Ability to take Victorian Women Soccer to a high level of competitiveness

Initially a one year contract with one year option. Annual salary based on level of qualification and experience.

Send applications in writing to:

Ian Greener
Coaching and Development Manager
Victorian Soccer Federation

PO Box 824
South Melbourne VIC 3205

Fax: (03) 9682 9777

E-mail: igreener@soccervictoria.org.au

Enquires: (03) 9685 8708

Closing date: 19 December 2003

www.soccervictoria.org.au

VSF

Marconi vs Melb. Knights



**Saturday
December 13**
Main Game Kick-Off 7.30pm
Youth League Kick-Off 5pm
Marconi vs Canberra Deakin



MARCONI STADIUM



Nick Carle



Simon Bell

*Come See
the North
Clash
with the
South*



Anthony Pekkan



Ian Dobson (Manager)

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National Soccer League



Sydney Olympic



Parramatta Power

By Peter Damalas

A headed goal from Ante Milicic with eleven minutes remaining settled a fiercely competitive Round 12 clash between Sydney Olympic and Parramatta Power.

In a match that seemed destined for a goalless draw, an entirely fair result, the former Olympic striker popped up at the back post to head home a Simon Colosimo corner after it was flicked on by Ahmed Elrich.

The frustration at another home loss was in evidence when midfielder Troy Halpin, lashed out at the goalscorer minutes after Parramatta had gone ahead. The recently returned playmaker kicked Milicic after he moved past him deep in his own half. The referee

had little option but to brandish the yellow card, Halpin's second of the match, and subsequent send off.

The away team will probably feel that Halpin received his just desserts after an awful tackle from behind on John Buonavoglia late in the first half led to the pint sized striker being stretchered off the field and taken to the nearby St George Hospital, where he was diagnosed with a broken fibula in his leg.

Buonavoglia will be out for approximately 6-8 weeks. The worst case scenario will require him to have an operation on his leg.

But for Halpin, the two rash challenges marred what was otherwise a decent performance for Olympic. His long diagonal passes found their range and he was use-

ful in opening up the play for a side seemingly desperate to get one over their local rivals.

But it was Parramatta who came closest on two occasions early in the proceedings.

In the eleventh minute, midfielder Colosimo chipped the ball forward to Buonavoglia, who chested down and volleyed directly at goalkeeper Brett Hughes, who had positioned himself well for the effort.

In the 13th minute, the veteran keeper again came to the rescue, spreading himself well to deny Fernando Rech after he was put through a square Olympic defence by Milicic.

Olympic did give a decent account of themselves in midfield, though.

Iain Fyfe in particular made a number of promising

forward runs which gave the strike force of Cardozo and Goutzioulis much needed support.

On nineteen minutes, Fyfe forced goalkeeper Clint Bolton into collecting the ball at his feet while he was ready to pounce.

Both teams rose to the occasion and there was certainly little difference between the high flying Parramatta side and struggling Olympic in terms of attacking fervour and commitment to the cause.

However, the inequality of playing depth in the two squads was made apparent

in the second period as the Power attempted to walk the ball into the back of the net with multiple short passes inside Olympic's penalty area, while the home side took the more direct route.

Pablo Cardozo was the

only recognised striker for Olympic with few options off the bench, while Nick Theodorakopoulos replaced Buonavoglia with livewire Travis Dodd, and did not require the services of the absent Kosta Salapasis.

An excellent swinging move in the 59th minute threatened to unlock the away team's defence. Fyfe played Hiroyuki Ishida in through the left and his cross found Cardozo on the far

Player Ratings	
Sydney Olympic:	Hughes (8), Souris (7), Kohler (7), Juric (7), Fyfe (8), Cardozo (7), Halpin (6.5), Augerinos (7), Goutzioulis (7), Ishida (6), Caravella (7), SUBS: Schirripa (6), Bakis (6), Bolic (5.5).
Parramatta Power:	Bolton (7), Ceccoli (6.5), Colosimo (7), Beauchamp (7.5), Thompson (6.5), Milicic (6.5), Rech (7), Pantelis (6), Sobczyk (6.5), Buonavoglia (6), Elrich (6), SUBS: Dodd (6.5), O'Grady (6), Zorbas (6.5).

post, who sent in across to Goutzioulis who attempted to flick it into the net.

Yet while the match was

heading for a 0-0 result, Ante Milicic confirmed Parramatta's position at the top of the league with an opportunist goal on 79 minutes. After breaking a two match losing streak last week, the Power continued their charge for a top two finish as the season moves towards the half way mark.

Olympic failed to add on



Olympic's zippy midfielder Zenon Caravella shown battling Simon Colosimo (left) and Fernando Rech (right). (Photo By Con Poulos)

FRASER PARK CANTERBURY UNITED SOCCER CLUB



Under 16's required for our 2004 representative team.

Enquiries: George 0418 405 568

Northern Spirit

South Melbourne

By Luke Doherty

A rampant Northern Spirit outfit shocked everyone on Sunday night by beating an unusually under par South Melbourne outfit, 3-1 at Pittwater Park.

Two spectacular Stewart Petrie strikes and a late Bret Fisher clincher, sealed an emphatic victory to knock South Melbourne off the top of the NSL ladder.

Throughout the Spirit's indifferent run of form, Petrie has been one of the strong points of the Spirit squad.

Petrie's first strike showed immense poise and class while his second - a turn and shot blast into the top left hand corner - showed what a skilled marksman he is.

The win is a well needed confidence booster for the Northern Beaches side, as they face a tough mission on the road with a mid week game against Adelaide and then a trip to Brisbane's Perry Park, to take on the strikers on Saturday night.

Spirit coach Lawrie Mckinna was pleased with

his sides performance after the game but said he knew it was a must win situation.

"We had to win tonight," said Mckinna, "and we have to beat Adelaide on Wednesday."

"We are eight or nine places better than we were last year."

The win was unexpected to say the least after the Spirit were played off the park two weeks ago against Parramatta.

The difference was simply a willingness to take shots. Although that quality was lacking in the first half from the Spirit the second half showed the potential of a Spirit attack that has been shackled as of late.

South Melbourne were in the position where they had to win if they wanted to retain first place, as news filtered through that Parramatta had taken full points away from their game.

Petrie put the home side ahead on the stroke of half time after both sides spent the majority of the first half missing clear chances on goal.

With 1859 fans scream-

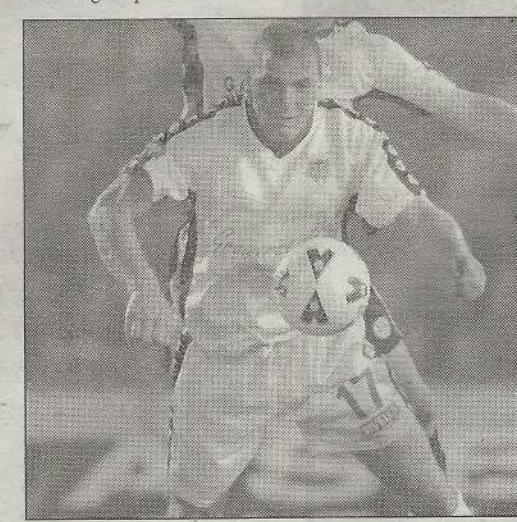
ing for the Spirit to take a shot - Petrie flicked the ball back to his favoured left foot and curled it past a diving Eugene Galekovic and into the top left hand corner of the goal.

Petrie, as he was two weeks ago against Parramatta, again worked over time to try and create a scoring opportunity for the Spirit. The former Dunfermline striker is finally settling into the Spirit line up and displaying the attacking capabilities that

made Spirit coach Lawrie Mckinna bring him over from Scotland in the first place.

South Melbourne skipper Vaughn Coveny, who was expected to be out for another week, made a surprise start.

Coveny had the opportunity to put his side ahead in the 8th minute when he found himself through on goal but a point blank save from Spirit keeper Paul Henderson ensured it stayed nil all.



Stewart Petrie notched up two goals for the Spirit in their three-one victory over South Melbourne.

Coveny previously had scored seven goals in just eight appearances and he would have been decidedly frustrated given the end result.

Spirit midfielder Ian Ferguson's comeback was short lived. He re-strained his quad muscle that he injured two weeks ago against Sydney United and was forced from the field in the third minute.

South striker Michael Curijs made it one all straight after half time with a well taken header but the Spirit replied straight away through Petrie.

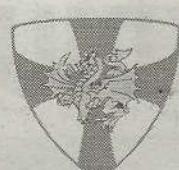
Petrie was marked by the giant frames of Ante Kovacevic and Steve Laurie but he chested down a pass onto his left foot and sent the ball screaming into the top left hand corner of the net to make it 2-1.

Petrie's striker partner Adam Kwasnik's 25 yard thunderbolt was denied by the cross bar in the 66th minute.

It was Kwasnik's replacement, Bret Fisher who put the finishing touches on the victory when he slotted home a well taken chance in the 87th minute to complete the route.

Combine the Spirit's victory with the recent form of the Wollongong Wolves and it shows just how open the NSL, which was labelled a two horse race, is.

FRASER PARK DRAGONS SOCCER CLUB



Players are invited to trial for the DRAGONS Under 20's side competing in the 2004 Winter Super League. Players will need to be born in 1984 or after, you will also need to bring boots, shin pads & shorts.

Date/Time:

14th & 21st December 9.30am

Venue:

Camden Oval, St Peters

Enquiries: Bill Edwards 0411 071 629

Come play with the 2003 Club Champions!

"Learn to play like a Socceroo Legend"

Former Socceroo Captain Paul Wade returns to the national soccer scene in 2004 with the launch of a series of new concept Soccer development programs under the "Paul Wade National Soccer Schools" banner.

One of Australia's leading players for many years, Wadey moved into the media after retirement and has worked with and established school based coaching initiatives over the past 10 years.

This program forms part of an initiative of one of Australia's leading sports service providers, the Sports Education Group (SEG) to provide club friendly coaching services for girls and boys at both grass roots and elite level.

Paul Wade who will visit all centres during the year, has contributed significantly to the curriculum and will work together with national program manager, Tony Walmesley on the education of regional service providers.

Regional managers have been recruited in centres around Australia — people with high quality credentials in playing, coaching and management, and with a good working knowledge of the game in their region.

These people will drive the program, recruiting and training staff, managing venues and developing players under the high standards and quality assurance of SEG operations.

In the grass roots area, Soccer is crying out for programs that engage kids in playing and loving the game.

Paul Wade emphasises a 'Maximum FUN, Maximum Participation' approach to this aspect of the program and challenges all SEG staff to provide enthusiastic performances at every session.

In the area of skill development, the Junior Elite Training Scheme, which kicks off in February 2004, maintains the FUN factor, but provides the extra tools players will need as they develop towards more competitive areas.

In line with the values of SEG and Paul Wade, the quality of equipment and clothing to support the training environment, is top class and players will experience unique service and value.

For up to date information on SEG and the Paul Wade National Soccer Schools, you can check out the web site: www.sportseg.com.au

Paul Wade Interview

What is Sports Education Group all about?

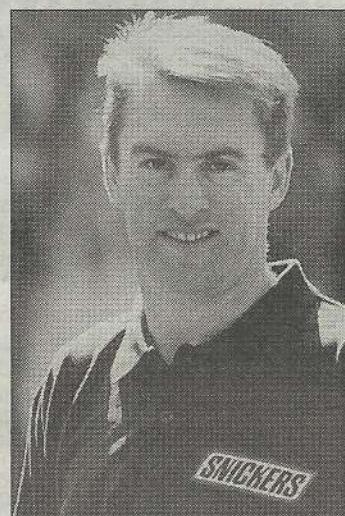
We identified a record number of players in Australia that need nurturing and this number is growing. We think we can provide fantastic Soccer experiences for girls and boys at all levels of the game.

What makes you different?

We'll provide not only "WHAT" should be coached, but the importance of "HOW" it should be coached — our coaches should be shattered after a session because their enthusiasm will be massive.

So what's the Paul Wade philosophy?

Simple — maximum participation, maximum fun. It doesn't matter what level you're at, even players at Man U still play for fun and our elite program will focus on technique, but the players will still love it.



Paul Wade

How will you know the Paul Wade National Soccer Schools is working?

I'll be satisfied when I travel around our centres throughout the country seeing kids with smiles on their faces cause I'll know they are getting well coached and enjoying themselves at the same time.

Apart from that, what benefits do your players get?

Well, they'll all get gifts to help improve their game so a JETS program, FUNdamental clinic or Club Skills course doesn't stop at the end of the session. It's about loving the game for life.

There are a lot of Operators out there what's your edge?

The sheer size of this project and the quality of the people involved guarantee a top class experience. I have never seen professionalism like it during my time in the game.

Does the commitment you showed as a Socceroo Captain still exist?

Well my brain operations for epilepsy are well documented — I had my third and final one three weeks ago and this project has got me back on my feet so fast — I just wish I was still playing cause with a titanium plate in my head my headers would go like a bullet.

Cheers Wadey



Sports Education Group

Paul Wade National Soccer Schools JETS Junior Elite Training Scheme

"Learn to play like a Socceroo Legend"

The JETS is a comprehensive 32 week coaching program for players seeking to develop outstanding technical performance, developed with former Socceroo Captain, Paul Wade.

The JETS is a club friendly program that provides participants with high level coaching from professionally-trained staff working to develop excellent individual skills.

The JETS program is for players under 8 to under 12. Expressions of interest are also invited for players 13 and above. Venus are yet to be set, but application forms can be downloaded off the web site and services will be provided where there is demand.

The JETS Program commences nationally in February 2004

Total Coaching Program

- Year Round
- Physical Testing
- National Skills Testing Program
- Fast Feet Program
- Monitored Home Training Program
- Mental Skills Training/Nutrition

Investment \$700.00 plus GST

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National Soccer League



Melbourne Knights



Newcastle United

1

1

ONE crucial error marred an outstanding performance from Melbourne Knights goalkeeper Vilson Knezevic as his side stumbled to a NSL draw with Newcastle at Knights Stadium.

Playing his comeback game for the Knights after spending several seasons in Belgium, Knezevic kept his side in the match in the first half as it was under siege from an impressive Newcastle.

But after Tomi Razov had put the Knights a goal up three minutes after halftime,

Knezevic fumbled a Scott Thomas cross to gift Ryan Griffiths the equaliser in the 58th minute.

Knezevic then restored his hero status – saving his side from losing all three points with a brave stop from Greg Owens from point blank range in the 63rd minute and another from substitute Mitchell Wallace in injury time.

Newcastle should have wrapped up all three points in the first half after dominating the opening 45 minutes.

But it was 1995 championship-winning hero

Knezevic – the league's tallest goalkeeper at 200cm – who kept Newcastle at bay as it carved up the Knights' defence at will.

Three saves from Griffiths in the space of two minutes in the first half kept the Knights afloat as they looked set for another fruitless afternoon.

Instead tonight's point edges the Knights away from the foot of the table while Newcastle continue to remain a genuine top six contender.

Knights coach Ian Dobson reserved special praise for goalscorer Razov and young-

ster Bill Natsioulas, who worked tirelessly in midfield, particularly in the second half.

"I believe we have improved in our two performances since we were beaten (5-0) by South Melbourne," Dobson said.

"Two players certainly have improved – Natsioulas and Razov. "They turned in good performances last week against Brisbane and we're starting to get things right in the way we play."

Source - AAP



Adam Griffiths (Right) closely monitors Knights new recruit Kris Trajanovski during last week's encounter that ended in a one-all draw.



Wollongong Wolves



Brisbane Strikers

1

1

By Otto Bader

ONE of the hardest things most teams experience is to keep the momentum going when on 'run-wins' like the Wolves being undefeated in four games.

Nonetheless John Turner's troops did just that against a spirited opposition that finished one-a-piece against the Brisbane Strikers.

At WIN Stadium in windy conditions Box champion Anthony Mundine kicked off the match between two sides fielding relative unknown NSL players. It turned out to be a very exciting encounter, definitely entertaining, enjoyed by the slightly increased crowd of 2130 compared to the last home attendance.

Brisbane started well, looked youthful, eager, attacking, quick and full of life immediately pressuring the home side. The first corner for Brisbane in the 13th minute brought their lead when Louis Brain was allowed space from about 20 metres out to score the first goal, low and hard into the bottom corner of the Wolves net, no chance for keeper Andrew Crews, well struck shot.

The home team was rather taken back and struggled for times to find their rhythm. Gradually the Wolves found their way and launched several promising attacks.

The Striker had a few chances and just missed the target but though did the Wolves with Stuart Young trying to chip the keeper, getting caught off-side being too eager to find an

opening. The second half just kicked off when the home side achieved a corner, taken short by Nahuel Arrarte who crossed and headed on for striker Chimaobi Nwagazi, the Nigerian striker, to find the net for a well deserved equaliser.

The fans were hoping for more goals to come since the Wolves did find more space and controlled the ball at stages but were seldom able to break a solid Brisbane defence.

On the other side the Wolves had opportunities with Ben Blake just missing with a fine header, Nahuel Arrarte shooting well but just wide and Stuart Young as well as Adam

Hughes trying a few long-range shots, well covered by the keeper.

Brisbane player-coach Stuart McLaren believed his side failed to build on a strong start. "We scored a goal and had a great half hour but then didn't get a second goal and Wollongong came back into the game just before half time," McLaren said.

His Wolves counterpart John Turner agreed.

"Both teams deserved something from the game," Turner said.

"It was a cracking game given the conditions and both teams went out to win it."



Nigerian goal machine Chima Nwagazi scored his third goal in three games to earn the Wolves a valuable point at home against the Strikers.



Kingz



Adelaide United

1

3

ALL WHITE striker Shane Smeltz stole the thunder from the gallant Football Kingz when he scored the winner for Adelaide United in their NSL win at Ericsson Stadium.

Smeltz had only been on the field two minutes when he was on hand to chest the ball home from a United corner in the 80th minute, and Carl Veart made the game safe for Adelaide three minutes from time.

Smeltz's goal was a cruel blow for the Kingz, who had fought back with a Harry Ngata penalty after going behind early in the second spell.

The penalty was earned by the speed of Mark Beldham, who had caused havoc in the visiting defence with his hard, direct running. Ten minutes after that Ngata had another spot kick which he missed.

As the first half wore on United blew plenty of promising attacks, while the Kingz defence, with Norwegian Espen Schjerven standing out, coped admirably with the threats posed.

The last five minutes of the first spell was all the Kingz, as they probed down both flanks – but the New Zealanders failed to capitalise.

Early in the second spell United danger man Adriano Pellegrino got into the action with a great shot which keeper Ross Nicholson pushed wide, then got booked for a foul, and two minutes later opened

the scoring in the 50th minute.

Shane Thompson had broken down the left, slipped a square ball to Pellegrino who took one stride into the penalty area and let fly with a bullet shot which Nicholson had no chance with.

Ngata was earlier unlucky not to get hold of a ball on the far post after some great play from Aleksander Midtsian and Jason Crowley, whose first time cross from the right reached Ngata at the same time as Richie Alagich arrived for Adelaide.

Ten minutes later the Kingz were level when Beldham's pace, which had caused United plenty of problems, earned them a penalty.



Carl Veart played a solid game for Adelaide notching up the third and final goal in their win over the Kingz last Saturday.

BYE - MARCONI STALLIONS

WOLVES NEWS

By Otto Bader

Wolves Sign International

Coach John Turner is looking forward to include experienced defender Jason van Blerk (34) in his squad to guide his young troops to a higher level.



The former Australian International represented his country 37 times and has been in Europe for the last 12 years – Holland, Belgium and England, playing there for Wolverhampton Wanderers and in the conference league. Family reasons urged Jason to return to Australia and his past connections with John Turner influenced his joining the Wolves.

Since losing two players – Mirko Jurilj and Vlado Zoric – the coach hopes the experienced Australian International can fill the gap.

The next few competition games are crucial for the Wolves hoping to pick up enough points to regain a respectable position on the table.

Young Wolves 5th
Eddie Tesoro and his soccer-

midges travelled to Queensland last week. They played against Queensland Academy of Sports and recorded a 3:0 win – goals scored by Ian Hall, Matthew Werakso and Daniel Miladinski. The team is running 5th having played 7 matches with 2 in hand making it possible to catch up with the front-runners.

Preparations for next year's overseas trip to England and France are well on the way with weekly meetings to co-ordinate organisational matters and fund raising activities. A party of 40 is booked to represent the Illawarra region and Wollongong City soccer on the European scene.

Board Positions Challenged

On Monday 15th December 2003 the annual general meeting of the Illawarra Soccer Association will be held at the Fraternity club.

On the agenda are among the standard items as most critical the election of 5 directors for the Board while the remaining 4 directors serve a second term.

In total 7 nominations for 5 positions have been submitted throwing out a challenge to the incumbent directors.

Two well known personalities – one from the local soccer fraternity, the other a Wollongong Councillor – could initiate a change of the present Board structure.

The delegates of 28 member clubs will take part in a secret ballot to elect the Board positions.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2003-2004
NORTHERN DIVISION ROUND 12

LEAGUE LADDER

	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
Canberra Deakin	11	9	1	2	1	37	15	28
AIS	10	8	2	2	0	32	5	26
Parramatta Power	10	6	1	1	3	26	14	19
Wollongong Wolves	8	6	0	2	2	18	10	18
Marconi Stallions	11	5	2	1	4	18	16	17
Northern Spirit	10	4	3	2	3	10	11	15
Brisbane Strikers	10	4	0	2	6	14	23	12
Newcastle United	10	2	3	1	5	13	14	9
Sydney United	9	3	0	2	6	15	21	9
Sydney Olympic	9	2	1	2	6	11	21	7
QAS	10	2	1	2	7	14	27	7
ACTAS	8	0	0	1	8	3	34	0

DEFERRED MATCH FROM RD 1 – Played on Sunday 7 Dec 2003

BYE – Marconi Stallions
BYE – Sydney United

NORTHERN DIVISION FIXTURES – ROUND 13

DEFERRED MATCH FROM RD 2 – To be played on Tuesday 9 December 2003

QAS Vs Parramatta Power

Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: Richlands Stadium

WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2003

ACTAS Vs Sydney Olympic

Time: 5.00 pm

Venue: Hawker Oval

Sydney United Vs Canberra Deakin

Time: 5.15 pm

Venue: Sydney United Sports Centre

BYE – Marconi Stallions

BYE – Parramatta Power

FIXTURES – ROUND 14

FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER 2003

ACTAS Vs Parramatta Power

Time: 5.00 pm

Venue: Hawker Oval

Newcastle United Vs AIS

Time: 5.15 pm

Venue: Energy Australia Stadium

SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER 2003

Brisbane Strikers Vs Northern Spirit

Time: 4.35 pm

Venue: Perry Park

Marconi Stallions Vs Canberra Deakin

Time: 5.00 pm

Venue: Marconi Stadium

SOCCERWOMAN by Janene Mar

WNSL ROUND NINE

Queensland Sting and NSW Sapphires are confirmed as WNSL grandfinalists after the weekend's Round Nine action. Defending champions Queensland secured first position with one round still remaining, and therefore the chance to host the decider, whilst NSW assured themselves of the other final berth despite drawing their third consecutive match.

STING BELOW PAR BUT GRAB THE POINTS

QUEENSLAND STING 2 (Belinda Dawney 7m, Kate McShea 69m) defeated CANBERRA ECLIPSE 0 at ANZ Stadium, Brisbane

R einging champions Queensland Sting came away with a 2-0 win over Canberra Eclipse on Saturday night but it was Canberra who played the better football for much of the match but, as has been their problem all season, were unable to convert the possession into goals. Sting uncharacteristically did not combine well as a unit, giving the ball away regularly, but were still able to make their chances count.

Eclipse looked hungry for the win throughout the clash, but their attacks broke down with the final pass or loose shooting. Their possessional domination was evident with their greater number of corners and freekicks than the home team.

Queensland claimed the lead after just seven minutes, Lana Harch releasing Jessica Mitchell up the left. The goalkeep-

er got a hand to Mitchell's cross but fumbled and Belinda Dawney raced in to score from the loose ball.

Eclipse then dominated the next half hour, keeping the Sting defence busy without creating real danger on goal. Canberra's best chance for the match fell to Caitlin Munoz late in the first half, her strike sailing just over the bar.

Queensland came back the stronger going into the break, Harch close to scoring but her long-range effort was deflected wide.

Sting improved in the second half but were still not at their polished best and created few real chances.

In a more evenly-fought second 45 minutes, Canberra remained as keen as ever, running and tackling hard, but still posed little threat on goal.

Queensland scored their second in the 69th minute, a corner kick resulting in an almighty scramble.

Kate McShea had a bicycle kick attempt hit the crossbar, the rebound then headed by a teammate but saved by keeper Amy Beattie, and the loose ball fell into McShea's path, who this time stuck the ball in the back of the net.

Sting - Kitching, Garven, Reuter, Grant, Beaumont (Walsh 75), McShea, Duus, Ferguson (Carroll 46), Harch, Mitchell (Mann 75), Dawney (Williams 86). Eclipse - Beattie, Taylor, Davies, C Maciejewski, Somi, Brush (Wilson 80), Karp, Hepperlin, J Maciejewski, Chapman, Munoz.

TEN-MAN VISION GRAB WINNER

VICTORIA VISION 2 (Belinda Pannella 27m, Louisa Bisby 72m) defeated NORTHERN NSW PRIDE 1 (Katie Gill 9m) at Serbian Sports Centre, Melbourne

Earlier Saturday, Victoria Vision carved out a gutsy 2-1 win against Northern NSW Pride despite having a player sent off shortly before halftime.

The incident was the turning point of the match, ironically in Victoria's advantage as it only seemed to steel their resolve for the second half, during which they produced the winner to break the deadlock in a dramatic and exciting encounter.

Pride claimed the early lead in the 9th minute of play. Victoria lost the ball in the middle of their own half, striker Katie Gill accepting the ball and making the solo raid before finding the back of the net.

Vision's attack to date was orchestrated by Amy Jackson's work up the flank but the crosses provided found no willing finishers. Vision then found the mark with the equaliser in the 27th minute, a Louisa Bisby ball finding Belinda Pannella who neatly turned her marker and struck in clinical fashion.

Victoria emerged from the dressing room fired up more than ever, intent on securing a win despite their numerical disadvantage. In the 72nd minute, Victoria were rewarded with what turned out to be the winning goal. A Bisby freekick from 30 metres out was curled into the area, but although covered by the keeper, a defender stuck her leg out to the ball and deflect-

LEADING GOALSCORERS 2003/04

10	Lisa DE VANA	Adelaide Sensation
8	Catherine CANNULI	NSW Sapphires
8	Belinda DAWNEY	Queensland Sting
7	Jessica MITCHELL	Queensland Sting
6	Michelle CARNEY	NSW Sapphires
5	Kylie LEDBROOK	NSW Sapphires
5	April MANN	Queensland Sting
5	Belinda PANNELLA	Victoria Vision

THIS WEEKEND – ROUND TEN

Sat 13 Dec 03 Canberra Eclipse vs Adelaide Sensation

12.30pm Belconnen Soccer Centre

Sat 13 Dec 03 Northern NSW Pride vs Queensland Sting

12.30pm Wanderers Oval

Sat 13 Dec 03 NSW Sapphires v Victoria Vision

12.30pm Valentine Sports Park

NOTE: For the NSW Sapphires match report turn to page 19 for our extensive 8-page NSW section - the best in Australia

PROGRESSIVE POINTS LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
QUEENSLAND STING	9	7	2	-	33	6	27	23
NSW SAPPHIRES	9	5	4	-	26	9	17	19
ADELAIDE SENSATION	9	4	1	4	19	23	-4	13
VICTORIA VISION	9	2	3	4	13	26	-13	9
CANBERRA ECLIPSE	9	1	4	4	7	12	-5	7
NORTHERN NSW PRIDE	9	-	2	7	12	34	-22	2

ed it into goal for a 2-1 scoreline.

Terek, Pannella (Angelucci 81).

Pride - Logue, Cotts, Shepherd, Townsend (Oxtoby 77), O'Toole, Neilson, Ruyter-Hooley, Jackson (Kuralay 72), (Khamis 73), Colthorpe, Howes (Tristram 53), Small, Gill, Crawford.

Letters & Giveaways

EURO GLORY

Dear Sir,

Next year's European Championships are looming as one of the better international football tournaments we have seen in a while.



The four groups are finely balanced with powerful teams and unheralded teams that are certainly capable of springing a surprise.

I see this tournament as the first step in the resurgence of the standard of international football, considering the poor quality of the 2002 World Cup in comparison with tournaments of the past.

The reduction in size of the Champions League has not doubt helped, and players may feel more refreshed after their long seasons, and play to their potential.

The last World Cup came to soon after the end of the European season for many players, look at what happened to France, Argentina and Italy. And Euro 2000 was dominated by the southern European nations.

This time, there is an equality in terms of the nations, with equal representation from north, south, east and western Europe.

Dennis Plummer.
Ramsgate, NSW.



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Unfortunately all matches in the 2003/2004 Summer Youth League were cancelled over the past weekend due to the poor weather.

Bruce Dinsdale, General Manager of Brisbane Mens Soccer, said that all matches were cancelled after morning inspections of the grounds and the likelihood of further rain during the day and night.

"We wanted to ensure the safety of all the players and felt that it would be in everyone's best interest not to risk playing in potentially dangerous conditions. We also wanted to minimise the problems that playing may cause to some of the fields which have just been upgraded."

He added "BMS will discuss the options regarding the playing these matches at future dates and will advise everyone concerned as soon as possible."

The first half of fixtures in the competition has now been completed and no clear favourites have emerged in either group. In Group 1, the top four teams of Palm Beach Sharks, Rochedale Rovers, Queensland Lions and North Coast Suns had all recorded good results with Palm Beach being undefeated and Rochedale only losing one match. These two teams had drawn when they met in Round 5.

The title in this group looks like going down to the last matches and will hinge on consistent form when the teams come

back from the Christmas break.

In Group 2 the inconsistent form of all the teams had resulted in a congested points table with Sunshine Coast Hawks leading the way thanks to a very strong defensive record and the other teams all recording strong wins but mixing these good results with some unexpected defeats. Getting a run of results will be vital to secure the top position in this group as it could well be decided by the team who start taking their scoring chances.

Leading Goal Scorers	
6	Jayne GILCHRIST, QLD Lions
6	Serene KEMP, Palm Beach
5	Nicholas BROOMHAM, Redlands Utd
5	Steven CLEARY, Peninsula Power
5	Farren FLEITER, Sunshine Coast Hawks

To date 115 goals have been scored in the 30 matches played with five hat-tricks being bagged; Jacob Knight (Pine Rivers), Serene Kemp (Palm Beach); Tim Standley (Sunshine Coast), Steven Cleary (Peninsula Power) and Jayne Gilchrist (Qld Lions).

SUMMER LEAGUE 2003

Group 1 Point Table

	P	W	L	D	For	Agst	Diff.	Pts
Palm Beach Sharks	5	4	0	1	12	4	8	13
Rochedale Rovers	5	3	1	1	11	6	5	10
Queensland Lions	5	3	2	0	14	7	7	9
North Coast Suns	5	3	2	0	6	7	1	9
Redlands United	5	1	4	0	11	17	-6	3
South West Qld	5	0	5	0	5	20	-15	0

Group 2 Point Table

	P	W	L	D	For	Agst	Diff.	Pts
Sunshine Coast Hawks	5	4	1	0	10	3	7	12
Wynnum Wolves	5	3	2	0	13	9	4	9
Peninsula Power	5	2	2	1	11	6	5	7
North Star	5	2	3	0	7	12	-5	6
Pine Rivers United	5	2	3	0	6	16	-10	6
Easts Tigers	5	1	3	1	7	8	-1	4

Bruce Dinsdale went on to say "The most pleasing thing to date has been the positive response from most sources regarding the standard of play."

We always set out that the objective of this competition was the development of Youth players and there is certainly no question that some stars of the future have been making their presence felt.

To this we owe a great deal of thanks to the coaches and the admin staff of all the

NSL TASKFORCE READY?

Dear Sir,

I don't understand why a separate NSL Taskforce has been appointed and why so little time has been given for them to complete the work. Wasn't the

Crawford Report meant to handle all issues involving the game in Australia?

I have awaited their recommendations with baited breath for some time, considering the future direction of the NSL hangs in the balance. There is so much riding on the decisions that will be made in the next few months, it hardly seems reasonable that so little time be given for the Taskforce to complete their findings.

I just hope that they resolve the issues of summer versus winter soccer, and the number of clubs to participate in the Australian Premier League. We need inspiration and vision.

Debi Mazar.
Richmond, VIC.

INTER BLUES

Dear Sir,

What an amazing week it has been for Inter Milan.

From a 5-1 drubbing at home to Arsenal, they were good enough to come back and defeat Serie A leaders and defending champions Juventus in Turin.

They are certainly a team that do not believe in doing things in half measures.

Yet I do have faith in Alberto Zaccheroni. He is an underrated coach and has done some really good things at Udinese and Milan, where he succeeded despite limited resources.

He is the perfect man to restore the black and blue to where they should be.

An interesting thing to note is that Inter have always played well when Christian Vieri is out of the team.

No disrespect to him, but I feel that he has so much presence as a target man, that the team forget that there are other avenues to goal.

Even during Euro 2000, Italy learnt to play in an integrated way without relying heavily on one player.

They got to the Final that year, but in the 1998 and 2002 World Cups, Italy resorted to playing long balls and got nowhere in the end.

He doesn't seem happy at the club either. Maybe he should follow in Robbie Baggio's footsteps and move to a club that really needs him.

Come back and play for Marconi! Now that is wishful thinking!

Winston Kaminski.
Strathfield, NSW.

We are creating some great opportunities on the pitch but at times are not converting enough to get the results. The core players have been solid and very consistent which gives us the chance to bring on the other boys who are showing loads of potential."

Comments from the Coaches:

Karl Herdle (Palm Beach)

"The league is of a very high standard considering the age range of the players. Full credit to the quality of the coaches here who are concentrating on football not results."

Our team's work ethic and enthusiasm is fantastic and we just need to keep improving their tactical awareness and how to react to the way the other team plays.

Neil Monro and John Costello have been leading the side exceptionally well and I think Noah Littell has been our find of the season. He is a local player who had fitted in here at the club and adapted to be playing some good football."

Paul Foster (North Coast Suns)

"The Summer League is a fantastic concept and helps bridge that gap between Under 16 and Seniors. The boys get to play against some real quality opposition and see what is needed to take the next step. They know they can impress if they perform and maybe take that next step up."

I've been impressed by the pace at which our young lads are developing and their grasp of tactics and strategy that I'm trying to teach them. They still need to work on their ability to adapt to situations that arise on the field during games but that's an experience thing as well and as long as they keep working at it they will get better.

John Daye (Peninsula Power)

This is a great opportunity for the players and us coaches for the upcoming season. We can develop these players to get to the next level and see what areas of their game they need to work on.

Our side has been competitive but just has to learn that consistency. Our up and down form has been hard to fathom but the whole competition is giving these boys a head start for next season with their sharpness and skills.

Our middle three, Tim Chan Luke Tung and Kris Roy have been very reliable and Steven Cleary has recently been finding his goal scoring touch.

If we can learn that consistency we can match it with the more experienced opponents."

PREMIERSHIP BIZARRO

It's Nige and Derek here from BananaTV's Premiership Bizarro. Each week we give you the news and our views from around the grounds of the English Premier League.

This week, we can't go further than the disorganised fireworks display that greeted the players as they trotted out onto the pitch. A few rockets went up into the air, then suddenly, one of the milk bottles that was holding up the rackets must have fallen over, as one went off like a cruise missile and straight into the crowd.

The looks on the players' faces were priceless, as a few of them nearly had to change their shorts. However, the look on the female fan's face that was hit was full of claret, and seven other fans were injured. Mother always said that you should go to an organised fireworks display so you are safe, except at the Molineaux.

When that fan went to the ground, all excited, the last thing she would have expected was that a rocket would have nearly have her eye out. She was left with a smashed cheekbone and will no doubt sue the arses off the club. No doubt, she will think twice before going to a Premier

League match. Jez Moxey, the Wolves CEO, announced that there would be no more fireworks displays being held at the Molineaux. That was where the excitement ended for the day, as the game was a bore, apart from Shay Given's moment of madness, when he sprinted past his back four to try to tackle Nathan Blake 35 yards from goal. We know that Nathan Blake is not the most skilful attacker in the Premier League but Shay Given would definitely be the worst tackler in all 4 English Leagues.

Wolves' week of destruction did not end there. In the Carling Cup (this cup changes name every couple of seasons) new Euro beaters, The Ars, gave the night off for all the main men and fielded a 4th string 11 against a full strength Wolves, and stuffed the dirty golds, 5-1. We bet they can't wait to return to the Nationwide League.

Other Carling whatever Cup news, ManU fielded an under 10's side against last years Premier rejects, West Brom. Unfortunately, after a valiant display the parents wanted the boys home for bedtime and WBA won 2-0. Sir Ferg was obviously relieved to get out of this cup competition.

Leary David's cashless Villa bullied poor old Crystal Palace into a 3-0 defeat, where caretaker player manager, hoping to make a good impression and get the gig full time, helped sink his team and his chances with an own goal. Surprise! Surprise! Liverpudle lost 3-2 at home to loan specialists Bolton's Wanderers. The rest of the results really don't matter, the same as this cup competition.



This week also saw the draw for next year's Euro Championships, and there are some better games in prospect. Group A has deadly neighbours, hosts Portugal and Spain. We can't see much football being played here, as there will be players want-

ing to kick lumps out of each other. This promises to be a real war, in and out of the ground. Despite Becks OBE's prediction that we will win the whole thing, there are a few tricky games for Becks and his fellow picket line geezers to overcome. France, even though they are getting long in the tooth, still have Terry Henry leading the line. This will be a good game for John "Psycho" Terry to hoof him into the stands in the first couple of minutes. Maybe he will get away with an assault charge.

Croatia are another outfit that could cause the Mighty Old Blighty some problems and the Switzerland game is a typical game where they bore the pants of us and get a nil-all draw. So with that prospect in line, Ingerland could finish bottom of the group. Group C has a Nordic Viking battle in prospect with neighbours, Sweden and Denmark all at the ready to get stuck into each other and finish 3rd and 4th.

Group D also sees a good old rivalry with the Dutch and the Krauts going head to head. So many intriguing ties, you have to think the draw was fixed. Or UEFA is on steroids. Somebody get Leanart Johannsen to pee in a bottle and get it tested!

A life and death story to finish, concerning a Man City fan desperate for a blood transfusion, part of treatment of leukaemia. Luckily Paul Warburton's brother had a blood cell match and the stencil process was to get under way. However, Martin Warburton had some strings attached to the deal to save his brother. Martin, a ManU fan, insisted that Paul give up his allegiance to City. But it doesn't finish there. He also has other conditions that had to be signed off by Martin with a red seal.

All outer clothing to be red with hints of white. Interior and exterior decoration of home to be changed to red and all blue coloured materials to be used as rags to clean up dirt. Martin had to think carefully before agreeing for his brother to save his life (typical Mad Manc's).

There ends another week of Bizarro in the Premiership. You can tune your computer to www.bananatv.com each week for all the latest bollocks

See you here next week!

*Nige & Derek
Premiership Bizarro*

Victorian Chronicles



By Brendan Davis

SOUTH ON TOP

South knew they needed to beat the Kingz by a three goal margin on Sunday night to win back the top spot on the table for the first time in four years.

While Stuart Munro was telling everyone he would be satisfied with a 1-0 win everyone in the 5,000 strong crowd was desperate to see South take top spot, which of course, they did with a thumping 6-0 win over the Kiwis.

So excited were the players the post match media conference was twice delayed as a South official tried in vain to quieten the excited noise in the South player rooms.

While Michael Curcija with four great goals was justifiably delighted, the most excited person in the rooms was defender Steve Laurie.

The big bloke had scored Souths second goal with wonderful use of his head – it was his first goal and he was ecstatic. He carried a smile from ear to ear then made his way into the Champions Bar where he was still wearing his massive smile hours later.

Through the week the officials, fans and sponsors have been unable to contain their delight. At South Melbournes unofficial coffee shop, The Daily Grind Café in Clarendon Street, the late and South stories have flowed freely all week.

Its sure to be an exciting few weeks at South as the following two home games are against co-leaders Parramatta followed by a Wednesday night fixture against arch rivals Sydney Olympic.

MUNRO'S LAST 15

While the headlines have centred on South winning top spot on the table, few are aware of the struggle Stuart Munro had to field a team on Sunday against the Kingz.

He didn't have the luxury of 15 fully fit players.

Kristian Sarkies had Gastro, hadn't trained properly but was forced to make his first home start and only his second NSL start.

Paul Trimble had a serious toe injury; he had trained only once for the week yet had to start in the mid field. He played the whole first half before being substituted at the break.

Michael Panopolous was injured, and had to return to Greece for a court case involving unpaid wages from his former club, which he won. He should be back for the Spirit game.

Max Lohy and Carl Recchia returned to the squad, together with loan custodian Michael Theoklitos to enable South to muster the necessary numbers. And the news is not getting any better with Scott Tunbridge suspended for the week given an accumulation of yellow cards.

MUM AND DAD

Another couple wearing smiles at South on Sunday night were the proud parents of Kristian Sarkies.

Sarkies played a solid game despite having suffered from Gastro all week.

While he was making his first home start while his parents were guests of the club at the pre-match presidents dinner.

And scouts may want to keep an eye on his 16 year old brother who, according to dad, is also a competent footballer.

And South are wining despite having a growing list of players unavailable including Vaughan Coveny (hamstring, 3 weeks), number one goal keeper Dean Anastasiadis (foot 3 weeks), defender Mehmet Durakovic (hamstring 1-2 weeks) as well as those on international duty, Vince Lia & Massimo Murdocca.

Michael Panopolous missed the Kingz game after sustaining an injury in the Adelaide game. He was replaced in the starting line up by youngster Kristian

Sarkies, but Panopolous will be fit to resume his spot in the team for the trip to Northern Spirit next Sunday.



South Melbourne's future star Kristian Sarkies.

COMMENT OF THE WEEK

A top six spot was going to be hard for the Kingz to achieve before the season started, its harder now.

These words of wisdom were offered by stand in coach Tommy _____ after South beat the club 6-0 at Bob Jane on Sunday.

TRIMBOLI MOST POPULAR

The popularity of Trimmers hasn't fallen away.

At the pre match "best player" calcutta Trimmers was sold for the highest price – double that of the rest of the squad.

The most keenly contested players were Trimmers and Michael Panopolous, who wasn't even playing.

For the record, the player judged to have been the best on the park by coach Sturt Munro was Michael Curcija.

WHAT DOES ROMAN THINK?

The Chelsea Football Club logo features prominently on the Kingz shirt.

In stark contrast to their free spending English idols, the Kingz are rated as a 50/50 chance to have the resources to complete this NSL season, let alone develop a team for the future.

ABSW editorialised at length over the NSL's failure to impose the statutory fee on the Kingz when News Corporation effectively sold the club to interests associated with Chris Turner.

Our worst fears seem to have materialised, the club is in woeful shape on and off the park.

They are broke, managerless and friendless.

And they seem to be blowing in the wind, directionless.

The Kingz admission to the NSL has always been controversial; why do we need a team from New Zealand, why the extra cost borne by all Australian teams, can the Kingz cut it financially and similar questions were asked before they were admitted. And FIFA allowed them to be the only team in the world permitted to play in another country.

The financial and managerial support of News Corporation, via their Sky Television subsidiary was offered as the answer to every doubter.

Rupert Murdoch quickly identified the



Roman Abramovich: What would the Chelsea king pin think of the Kingz in their current state?

fact the Kingz were not viable, he sold down to a token holding, now the Kingz look doomed.

Many Australian Clubs are still fuming over the failure of the NSL to charge the \$250,000 franchise fee to Turner when he purchased the club – its time for the NSL to cut the Kingz loose, the reformed league doesn't need the Kingz or any other team from New Zealand.

Ethiopian Star For Knights?

Melbourne Knights are taking a close look at Ethiopia international striker Yidnek Mogen.

The 29 year-old is training with the Knights after arriving in Melbourne with his Australian wife. Mogen played for nine years in the Ethiopian Premier League with St George. "He claims he scored 22 goals last season and was the league's third-highest scorer," Dobson told the *Herald-Sun*.

"He's been called up to the national team but there are internal problems in the game over there and he indicated to me that his intentions are to move." He also said, "You can tell he's definitely played (at a good level). He's got a nice touch, I thought his mobility was good and I thought it was worth extending to have a good look at him."

"First sessions are always difficult because he didn't know anybody and he couldn't call for the ball, but that will change over the next week. "But the initial thoughts are this could be quite promising."

"We've had players walk in off the street before, but certainly not with the credentials of an international player." Wife Kathy added.

"It's a first-time visit for Yidnek, mainly to meet my family, and we're here till just before Christmas at this stage. "We're looking at our options. The Melbourne incentive is I've got my family here, but I've lived in Ethiopia for two years and that's home, too."

Green and Gold Army Series

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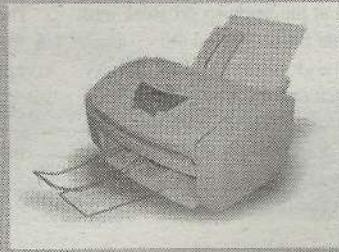
SOCER NOOS

Young Socceroos head to the UAE for the World Youth Cup

FIFA WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP 2003

Our U20's are off strutting their stuff on the World stage in Dubai. Ange Postecoglou is quietly confident that the boys can create a stir and results thus far support this. For all the tournament news log on to ggarmy.com

FAX-A-ROO



And while our boys are there in battle you can send them your best wishes via a fax. The number to dial is 0011 9714 268 8876 and your best wishes will be passed on to Ange and the lads.

AUSSIES UNITE — SEND US YOUR SONGS

ARMY SONG BOOK U.S.

One thing the RWC has highlighted is this: Aussie sport fans need to learn to sing at the football. Waltzing Matilda is great — but it is only one song. Have you got an Aussie sporting anthem or a great soccer song you can adapt to the Green and Gold?

We have had plenty pumped through lately but you can never have too many. Let us know by e-mailing madmacca@ggarmy.com

Trade A Game

Several GGArmy subscribers have approached us in relation to gaining access to a back catalogue of Socceroos games. Initial research has shown that this may be cost prohibitive at this point. However all is not lost — if you have a particular game that you want to get your hands on why not jump on to the ggarmy.com Fans Forum and if any other fans have access to the game you require? Several punters have got copies of games this way and have been able to feed their cravings for some classic green and gold battles.

Say Cheese! It's the BIGGER and improved GGArmy Photo Gallery

We have had some good additions to our Photo Gallery recently. As always if you have any photos of you in action at any Australian fixture from the Matildas through to the Socceroos send them to madmacca@ggarmy.com and we will post them — don't be shy!

Jump on to the Forum — everyone else is



After starting out with barely a man and his dog regularly posting, the GGArmy.com Fans Forum has grown into one of Oz Soccer's hottest message boards. Whether it be GGArmy specific talk through to the Socceroos or the NSL in our 'Other Australian Soccer Talk' section, it's all getting hot to close your paper and head to ggarmy.com NOW.

Damned if you do, doomed if you don't

By Mark van Aken

The Australian Soccer Association's task force is just about ready to deliver its findings in relation to the restructure of the NSL.

One can only wish them all the best as they have a monumental task in recommending the very best ideas for the game. In many ways they are on a hiding to nothing as everyone has an opinion on the topic, and its rare that any two opinions ever match.

If the competition prosers they will be hailed as geniuses, if it flops than the wider soccer public will forever ridicule them. The choice before them seems quite stark-maintain the status quo or deviate down a new path and that is where it forks into a hundred different directions.

In this years NSL we are involved in what Remo Nogarotto calls "the low rent season". This is reflected in the attendance figures for all but 3 clubs. While the standard hasn't necessarily fallen dramatically, it seems that most clubs have resigned themselves to national obliv-

ion when the plans for the new league are announced.

While they have had only a few home games at a 'foreign' venue due to new stadium construction, Perth will no doubt at least match crowds of previous years when finally playing home games at Members Equity Stadium. They may in fact enjoy numbers closer to the halcyon days of 3 or 4 years

The fact that the United team hasn't exactly set the world on fire on the pitch was no doubt a factor, and while its great to see the club doing well, we should perhaps wait until season's end to judge the success of the club properly. Memories of the 13,000 plus for the Collingwood Warriors first game float in here, however Adelaide show no evidence of such a pronounced fall out occurring any time soon.

The other club that still appears to have blood pumping through its veins is South Melbourne. Crowds have not been fantastic on Lakeside this year, but they are between 3 and 4 times as much as every other club in the league apart from the aforementioned. The problem the task force will face perhaps will be justifying the inclusion of one so-called 'ethnic' club over half a dozen others. However South would no doubt point

to crowd and sponsorship figures as well as current and historical on-field performance as justification for their survival.

It also begs the trillion dollar question of why most of Australia, soccer fans or otherwise, ignore the NSL? Is it because of the ethnic argument? If so explain the lack of success or even col-

lapse of teams like the Brisbane Strikers, Wollongong, Carlton, Canberra Cosmos, Northern Spirit, Newcastle Breakers etc etc. Ethnic over tones may play a role but the actual standard, marketing, promotion and overall package of the league are the overall factors leading to the public perception of and perfor-

mance of the current competition.

The standard seems to be the overriding factor providing a barrier to the NSL for most soccer part timers. You know the ones, those who watch the English Premier League religiously but wouldn't know Marconi from Macaroni. The ones who think the Brisbane Strikers are people involved in the union movement in SouthEast Queensland. This doesn't make them bad people and to reach its full potential Australian soccer can't continue to operate without them. The ASA needs to light a fire under these hundreds of thousands of potential customer's burns and get them excited about the national league.

Perhaps by culling the number of teams this can be achieved. If we ran with a small number of teams — for the sake of argument 8 — then instantly you are showcasing the 88 best players in Australia every week vs 143 currently. That means we automatically skim the talent base. That coupled with attracting as many as 40 or 50 of the 150 Aussies abroad home and you can see the



back due to the attendance honeymoon that most new venues enjoy. Add to this the fact that Glory fans will be keen to stay on top of the crowds premiership after a strong early season challenge from Adelaide United.

The Crow-Eaters seem to have hit on the right mix at their games thus far. From all reports they enjoy buy in from local Premier League teams as well as the wider community including the AFL Clubs and basketball's 36ers. Former World



Will Frank Lowy's reign be a successful one for Australian football? Only time will tell.

MARCONI BACK ON TRACK



Joe Spiteri (Left) and Angelo Costanzo (Right) have found a new lease of life under new Stallions coach Jean Paul De Marigny.

By Luke Doherty

Defender Angelo Costanzo has revealed that a new found sense of unity at Marconi, under debu-

tant coach Jean Paul De Marigny, is the reason for the clubs rise from cellar dwellers to mid table title challengers.

After finishing 12th last year, Marconi supporters would have been happy to see

the back of season 02/03. The appointment of a new coach isn't always the best way to fix a club's problems but in Marconi's case the signs are promising.

Marigny, a former Marconi player, was part of the clubs last NSL championship winning side 10 years ago and he has quickly gained the respect of both the fans and the players.

Costanzo said that under "JP" the troubles of the past season were well and truly behind them and that for once everyone at the club was pulling in the same direction.

"The players want to play this year because everything is positive," said Costanzo, who has played over 200 NSL games.

"Everyone's happy with JP (Jean Paul) and the whole backroom staff. They have a great attitude."

"We are on target with what JP wanted but we could have picked up a few more points along the way."

"We have a definite ambition to make the top 6."

Striker Joe Spiteri, who has had a mixed start to the season, slotting just three goals in 10 matches, is another who has noticed the difference Marigny has made to the squad since last season.

"The change of coach has been the biggest thing. JP has brought in a new style and new players so that's a change in itself," Spiteri said.

"There is a greater focus on things, the players really believe in themselves."

"He comes across as somebody who knows what he's talking about. He com-

municates well with the lads."

After serving a 4 match ban for 'that tackle' on Parramatta's Andrew Durante, captain Brad Maloney reclaimed his place in the Marconi midfield in the clubs last game against Sydney United and Costanzo said that it was a relief to have him back,

"It's always a relief to be back from a long injury or in Brad's case a long suspension," Costanzo said.

"The squad didn't want Brad to go through what he went through."

"He didn't deserve it and it didn't warrant the publicity that it got."

"We were happy to have him back as a leader. You always notice your captain out on the field. He is always talking to the boys."

The bye last weekend would have given the Stallions a chance to review their season so far but both Costanzo and Spiteri know that if the club had hit the back of the net a few more times then their season could be looking marginally better.

In 11 games they have only scored 12 times and conceded 13. Marconi has created enough scoring opportunities to have scored double the amount of goals that they have.

Their season has followed their mixed fortunes in front of goal.

The Stallions were undefeated after the first five rounds of the season but in the six rounds since they have lost three, drawn 2 and won just one game.

"I think it's basically not taking the opportunities. We've had a few chances in most games but we haven't been able to

put them away," Costanzo said.

"We haven't conceded that many goals so we have been tight at the back, apart from the Kingz game, and some good performances at the back helped youngster Michael Thwaite get a call up for the U20's and Domonic Longo has also been a plus."

"It's a fine line with the way that things have been," Spiteri said, "you are either getting two or three goals or none but it's a matter of time before things change."

While the terms and conditions of the Australian Premier League still being discussed by the new board, most of the players including Costanzo think that it's the way forward for Australian soccer.

"Something has to happen, something new," Costanzo said, "Frank Lowy coming in can only be a positive. He is the second richest man in Australia."

The possibility that most of the current NSL clubs may be scrapped in favour of new privately owned sides has players like Costanzo, who has a year to run on his contract unsure of their futures.

"They have to keep some of the original clubs though. Marconi has some of the best facilities in the country and with our history it would be a shame not to be there."

"I've got another year to go on my contract. But I'll have to wait to see what happens with the league next year to see what I'm doing after that."

"I had a few offers last year from Scotland, with Partick Thistle, but it wasn't financially right for me and my family."

SCARSELLA: COPY THE ADELAIDE MODEL

ADELAIDE United's successful entry into the national soccer league proves a similar model could work in Sydney and Melbourne as part of a revamped competition.

That's the view of United president Basil Scarsella, who says new, non-ethnically aligned teams can succeed in the sport's two biggest Australian markets.

Adelaide United has had phenomenal success this season tapping into disenfranchised South Australian soccer fans.

The club, which only came to life three weeks prior to the NSL season after unloved foundation club Adelaide City withdrew, has the highest attendances in the league.

It is averaging more than 13,000 fans in its four home matches to date, has sold all 25 corporate boxes at \$25,000 a pop and has attracted 45 signage sponsors.

In contrast, Adelaide City drew around 2,500 fans per game last season and financial problems forced it to quit the NSL.

Former Oceania and Soccer Australia boss Scarsella said clubs based along similar lines to Perth Glory and Adelaide United could work in any Australian capital city despite previous failures in Sydney and Melbourne.

"I don't profess to know the Sydney and Melbourne markets as well as I understand the Adelaide market," Scarsella said.

"We looked at the Perth Glory model and adapted it, not adopted it, to suit Adelaide."

"But the generic model should be able to be applied."

"It needs to be broadly based, try to tap into the local market, try to tap into the local state-based corporates, then adapted to suit the local market."

"I have no doubt Sydney and Melbourne should be able to cater for two, three or four NSL teams."

The NSL taskforce is set to tell the Australian Soccer Association this week how the national league should be restructured for next season.

Only Perth and Adelaide could feel confident of surviving any cut as exist-

ing NSL clubs continue to struggle with dwindling attendances, financial problems and entry criteria to the new league set to be beyond the reach of most.

Most of the pain is likely to be felt in Sydney, which has five clubs with meagre average crowds and little public interest.

But Scarsella said Adelaide United was not taking for granted being part of the new league next season.

"We're confident, but we're waiting to see what the new criteria will be."

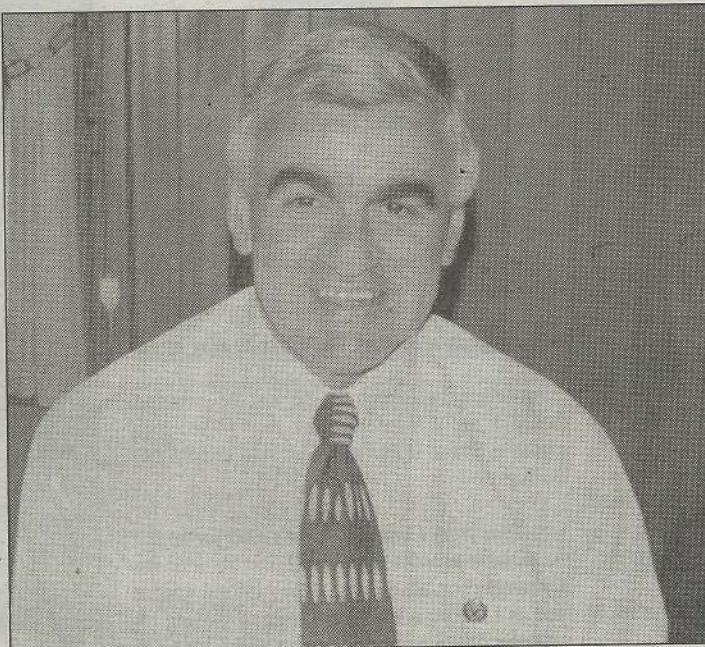
"Off the pitch, I'm delighted with what has happened but I also realise we've got to make sure we sustain that for the rest of the season."

South Melbourne is best placed of the two Melbourne clubs to join any new generation NSL, averaging just over 6,000 for home games at the impressive Bob Jane Stadium.

But clubs like their cross-town rivals Melbourne Knights and the five from Sydney face stiff opposition from possible new franchises in their respective cities or upwardly mobile State League clubs like the Queensland Lions.

The Lions, one of Australia's richest soccer clubs, own several other money-spinning feeder clubs in Queensland and have a multi-million dollar turnover courtesy of a massive leagues club complex.

Source - AAP



Basil Scarsella believes the Adelaide United venture could be carried on by various Sydney and Melbourne sides.

Strikers no EASY BEATS

Captain-coach Stuart McLaren says the Brisbane Strikers will be unable to rely on any element of surprise following a better than expected first half to its NSL season.

Brisbane were slightly better positioned than McLaren expected when he accepted the pressure of player-coach following an end-of-season re-fit.

At that stage he didn't have a full squad of players and Brisbane's credentials were being questioned.

But McLaren said everyone had just ignored the critics.

It's worked so far, with Brisbane nicely positioned with two of its next three games at home before the halfway mark.

"We hoped to have about 20 points by the halfway stage and we've got 17," said McLaren, enjoying the dual roles.

"There's still a long way to go but we're certainly well on track for what we're trying to achieve for the season."

McLaren has been impressed by the way his players have simply gone about their business.

"The guys work hard and stick to their task. The longer they play together the more fluent the football seems to be getting," he said.

But he was quick to point out the toughest part of the journey was still ahead because rival teams now knew more about the inexperienced Strikers' strengths.

"Our next challenge is to maintain the standard we've set which won't be easy because we've played everybody now and they know our strengths and weaknesses," he said.

"We've had a lot of players that not many people knew much about and you can surprise a few teams."

"But those teams realise we're up the top end of the table on merit, not just on any good fortune, so it will be a lot more difficult."

60-SECONDS WITH PETER BULJAN

By Daniela Raco

DR: Your best footballing asset?
My finishing.
DR: Describe your dance moves in three words.
Two left feet.
DR: Pub grub or fine dining?
Pub grub.
DR: Most admired sportsperson?
Muhammad Ali.
DR: Sporting dream (non football)?
Formula One driver.
DR: Coach's favourite saying?
The English way of saying "F***!"
DR: Favourite form of exercise?
Bike riding.
DR: Exercise/Drill you hate?
Sit ups.
DR: What music fires you up?
Dance music.
DR: What can't you live without?
Ice cream.
DR: Do you have a good luck charm?
I don't like people wishing me good luck before a game.
DR: Are you a boxer or a brief's guy?
A bit of both.
DR: What makes you laugh?
Comedy or funny films.
DR: What's under your bed?
Nothing.
DR: Do you play golf? Handicap?
I'm hopeless.
DR: Are you familiar with the "Beep Test"? What is your score?
Yes, - at my best 14.
DR: Favourite holiday destination?
Croatia.
DR: Best hangover cure?
More alcohol.
DR: Dream car?
Ferrari.
DR: Favourite drink?
Coca-Cola.
DR: Favourite food?
Chicken schnitzel.
DR: Three guests you would have to a dinner party?



Peter Buljan: Don't let the badge fool you, Pete is currently on the books with the Knights this season.

Mark "chopper" Read, Muhammad Ali, and Michael Jordan.
DR: What would you cook to impress?
Veal scaloppini.
DR: Most used appliance?
Television.
DR: Must-have power tool?
Don't use any.
DR: Have you ever used a chat-up line that worked?
They never work.
DR: Favourite "Superhero"?
Astro Boy.

WORD ASSOCIATIONS.

Reality television: Survivor.
Paris Hilton: Milly.
Nudity: Playboy.
Light Beer: No.
Religion: Catholic.
Training: Soccer.
Media: Newspapers.
Fast food: Macca's.

Queensland Academy enjoys great success

Queensland's Premier Soccer Academy is enjoying great success in placing young, often discarded, Aussie players into English clubs.

While debate rages within Australian football over the coaching of our young players, those behind the many privately run junior academies around the country continue their work at improving local youngsters.

One such academy is the Queensland-based Premier Soccer Academy (PSA), which has enjoyed great success in recent years.

Only five years old, PSA has already managed to help over a half-dozen players win contracts in England.

The Academy's director and founder, Steve Murray, admits PSA only came about because of a vacuum in the structure of local football development.

"I came to Australia just over seven years ago and immediately I could see that the talent was here but the system was letting the players down - particularly once they reached 16-17 years of age," Murray told tribalfootball.com.

"If you didn't make the QAS you were regarded as finished and those who were released by the QAS were given no ongoing support for the future.

"I am talking about Brisbane and how I see things, this is also what young players kept telling me. So I set up trials for a couple disillusioned lads at Chelsea and Ipswich Town about five years ago and that's how it started."

Premiership outfit Wolves have a PSA graduate on their books in Gareth Musson, while Peterborough United manager Barry Fry celebrated his takeover of the Second Division club by making PSA's Shane Huke his first signing as owner.

"We don't measure our success purely on the basis of players getting signed overseas as most of the players we take over can't get an international clearance," explained Murray.

"Ninety-five per cent of the players we have taken over have come back better players for the experience and that's what it is all about."

"Look at the players that we have overseas, all of them felt let down by the system one way or another."

"Hukey, for example, considered not good enough for the QAS after being a Queensland captain, this is a lad who followed the path he was told to follow by the people who control rep soccer and Queensland, only to find the door shut in his face at the last hurdle."

"Hukey was given no advice or guidance by the powers that be, 'that's it we, don't want you anymore, see you later'. It isn't the correct way to deal with young players."

Huke is now a role-model for the youngsters coming through PSA, who follow all the graduates with great interest.

Murray said, "Shane is a particularly good example for me to draw on as he has suffered the disappointment of rejection here in Australia to go on and get a pro contract at Peterborough United."

"Three Peterborough youth players have been signed by Tottenham, West Ham and Man Utd over the past two years, if that's not a good career path, what is?"

PSA conduct regular tours to England, taking advantage of the links the academy's coaching staff have to organize friendlies against top opposition.

A recent tour saw PSA play Premiership duo Leicester City and Chelsea, Ipswich Town and Peterborough's reserve-team - which included Shane Huke.

"We work the tours this way," explained Murray. "It is very rare for me to approach a player to tour with us, I don't like the idea of recruiting players for tours as many people seem to be doing these days."

"I don't like to play with the players' minds, if I started recruiting I would be hitting on some players who are playing for Queensland and that would clash with our tours, this starts putting players in difficult positions. That is not to say the odd player hasn't chosen to come with us and drop out of the Queensland team, but that has been the players contacting me, rather than me, first contacting the players."

"It must be said that the general standard of senior football in Queensland is not that good and I am told it has been on the decline for the past 8-10 years, that must suggest that quality young players are dropping out at an alarming rate - or that the system is not producing enough of them."

Murray admits concern at the poli-

tics involved in Queensland football and its coaching.

"There is an 'us and them' culture here. Those on the inside and those on the outside, I must stress that the comments I am about to make are not directed at everyone working within the system."

"Coach education is a joke, there are people running courses who have no idea how to coach and when I brought over a top UEFA coaching instructor here to Brisbane to put on seminars I was told that because I was not in the system they could not promote it."

"I have been in business for myself all my life, the last thing I would try to do is bring out coaches from the UK to make a profit, it just isn't viable, the coaches I have brought out are top class UEFA coaches who are close personal friends and every year they come over at a financial loss to the PSA."

"I can live with that, I am lucky to be able to go over to the UK every year, most coaches can't, and I am happy to put the seminars on and share the knowledge that these guys have with other coaches."

As Murray says, while there is a lot of finger pointing and wringing of hands at our coaching development, the private academies such as PSA are filling a void and doing their best for the game here.

Without PSA, where would the local game have taken the likes of Huke and Gareth Musson?

*Source - tribalfootball.com

KAZ THE MAN AT MADRID

Name: Kaz Patafta
Age: 15yrs DOB: 25 October 1988
Former Clubs: ACT ACADEMY OF SPORT
Current Clubs: just started with AIS
Rep Honours: ACT U14s 2002, ACT U15s 2002, 2003, Australian U17s Joeys train-on squad

By Mark Stavroulakis

1) How did the training offer come about with Real Madrid?

It was organised by Andy Bernal through SFX Sports.

2) What training did it consist of?

For the 2 weeks I was there, I trained 4 days a week (Monday to Thursday).

3) Who were you training with (Youth squad)?

I trained with the Real Madrid Cadete A youth team. This team is regarded by Real Madrid as their Golden Youth Team.

They have 8 Spanish, 1 Portuguese and 1 French internationals, and haven't been beaten in the last two years.

I also had the pleasure of playing a game against an U18s local Madrid club team with them.

4) Your experience on a whole in Spain?

It was a real eye opener. It made me realise how difficult but more so how much work you need to

put in, in order to make it over there.

They have so many great youth players who have been in the Real Madrid system for a long time.

They have access to professional coaches at a very early age.

They are technically and tactically more advanced at an earlier stage than we are here in Australia.

5) Did you get a chance to meet any of the superstars at Real?

I was invited over to David Beckham's house where I had a couple of photos taken with him.

6) How was it like meeting David Beckham?

It was unbelievable!!! To meet the person who I have admired as a footballer since I can remember was a real privilege and has inspired me even more to make it.

7) Is Spain a country you'd like to play at one day?

Anywhere in Europe would just be amazing, though I really loved the way they played their soccer in Spain. It was all about skill and the one touch game.

8) Your from Canberra, what's next for you at the moment in terms of football?

Learning as much as I can at the AIS, and work as hard as I can to achieve my dream of playing for Australia. Playing overseas is also where I want to end up.



Kaz Patafta shown in the Real Madrid strip during his stint in Spain.



National Soccer League



After Round 12

	TOTAL						
	P	W	D	L	BYE	F	A
PARRAMATTA POWER	12	7	2	2	0	26	10
SOUTH MELBOURNE	11	6	2	3	1	24	7
PERTH GLORY	10	6	1	3	1	19	14
BRISBANE STRIKERS	11	5	3	3	1	13	11
SYDNEY UNITED	10	4	4	2	1	8	5
NEWCASTLE UTD	12	4	4	4	1	14	15
MARCONI STALLIONS	11	4	4	3	1	13	13
NORTHERN SPIRIT	11	5	0	6	1	19	17
ADELAIDE UNITED	9	2	5	2	1	9	11
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	11	3	3	5	1	7	14
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	11	3	2	6	1	11	19
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	10	2	2	6	1	7	19
KINGZ	10	1	1	8	1	11	27

PTS	HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	E	A
23	5	4	1	0	17	2	6	3	1	2	9	8
20	5	4	0	1	14	3	6	2	2	2	10	4
19	2	2	0	0	4	0	8	4	1	3	15	14
18	5	3	2	0	8	4	6	2	1	3	5	7
16	5	2	2	1	6	4	5	2	2	1	2	1
16	7	3	2	2	8	6	4	1	2	2	6	9
16	6	3	2	1	7	5	5	1	2	2	6	8
15	6	3	0	3	14	10	5	2	0	3	5	7
13	4	1	2	1	4	6	4	1	2	1	5	5
12	7	1	3	3	4	9	4	2	1	1	3	5
11	6	2	1	3	6	9	5	1	1	3	5	10
8	5	0	2	3	3	10	5	2	0	3	4	9
4	6	1	0	5	7	14	4	0	1	3	4	13

KINGZ	1
(H Ngata 80')	
ADELAIDE UNITED	3
(A Pellegrino 50', S Smeltz 76', C Veart 86')	

Referee: Peter Green. Crowd: 1,121. Venue: Ericsson Stadium.

Teams: KINGZ: Nicholson, Midtsian, Collins, Jackson, Burton, Campbell (Martin 80'), Ngata, Rowley, Donoso, Schjerven, Beldham. Subs Not Used: Rayner, Scott, Utting (gk).

ADELAIDE UNITED: Scarsella, Alagich, Rees, Goulding, Aloisi, Vidmar, Veart, Lozanovski (Smeltz 61'), Thompson, Saric (Westervelt 71'), Pellegrino (Budin 71'). Subs Not Used: Bajic (gk). Cautions: M Beldham (FK) 86', A Pellegrino (AU) 46', A Goulding (AU) 71'.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	1
(T Razov 49')	

NEWCASTLE UNITED	1
(R Griffiths 58')	

Referee: Eddie Lennie. Crowd: 2,673. Venue: Knights Stadium.

Teams: MELBOURNE KNIGHTS: Knezevic, R Vargas, Kovacic, Marth, Vasilevski, Sabljak (Leijer 67'), Razov, Erdogan (A Vargas 67'), Natsioulas, Pelikan, Trajanovski (Oksuz 76'). Subs Not Used: Tomich (gk).

NEWCASTLE UNITED: Perosh, Deans, A Griffiths, Thomas, Wilson, R Griffiths, Johnson (Wallace 74'), Tsekenis, Mitchell, Masi, Brown (Owens 39'). Subs Not Used: McPherson, O'Brien (gk).

Cautions: D Vasilevski (MK) 24', C Deans (NU) 37', S Thomas (NU) 50', A Griffiths (NU) 70'.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC	0
(A Milicic 78')	

Referee: Derek Rugg. Crowd: 3,203. Venue: OKI Jubilee Oval. Teams: SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Hughes, Souris, Kohler, Juric, Fyfe, Cardozo (Bakis 86'), Halpin, Augerinos, Goutzioulis (Bojic 86'), Ishida (Schirripa 79'), Caravella. Subs Not Used: Moss (gk).

PARRAMATTA POWER: Bolton, Ceccoli, Colosimo, Beauchamp, Thompson, Milicic (O'Grady 89'), Rech (Zorbas 77'), Pantelis, Sobczyk, Buonavoglia (Dodd 43'), Elrich. Subs Not Used: Vukovic (gk).

Cautions: T Halpin (SO) 42', E Augerinos (SO) 86', A Juric (SO) 88', A Elrich (PP) 42', M Beauchamp (PP) 67'.

Red Cards: T Halpin (SO) 81'.

NORTHERN SPIRIT	3
(S Petrie 46', 56', B Fisher 88')	

SOUTH MELBOURNE	1
(M Curcija 54')	

Referee: Angelo Nardi. Crowd: 1,859. Venue: Pittwater Park

Teams: NORTHERN SPIRIT: Henderson, Watts, O'Sullivan, Spencer, Tomasevic, Ferguson (Baveas 23'), Kwasnik (Fisher 73'), Hutchinson, Groves, Petrie, Osman.

Subs Not Used: Hunter, Page (gk).

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Galekovic, Storey, Kovacevic, Coveny, Boutsianis, Stergiopoulos, Lohy (Tolios 68'), Laurie, Curcija, Sarkies, Poutakidis (Ibraim 84'). Subs Not Used: Recchia, Theoklitos (gk).

Cautions: J Hutchinson (NS) 34', A Kwasnik (NS) 46', V Coveny (SM) 21'.

WOLLONGONG WOLVES	1
(C Nwagazi 46')	

BRISBANE STRIKERS	1
(L Brain 13')	

Referee: Craig Zetter. Crowd: 2,130. Venue: WIN Stadium.

Teams: WOLLONGONG WOLVES: Crews, Dragas, Timpano (Cummins 81'), Hughes, Hawrylusik, Lyons, Arrarte, Young (Austin 83'), Van Bentum (DeGiovanniello 76'), Blake, Nwagazi. Subs Not Used: Whalan (gk).

BRISBANE STRIKERS: Higgins, Dodd, Stefanutto, McCoughan, Grierson, Webber, Hilton (McLaren 77'), Brownlie (Rose 65'), Brain, Pilic, Moon (Fitzsimmons 72').

Cautions: D Cummins (WW) 85', A Webber (BS) 42', W Moon (BS) 44'.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Stewart Petrie
(Northern Spirit)

Its high time that Petrie's experience has really made that much of a difference for the Northern Spirit this season. His goal scoring talents have gone from strength to strength especially after last week's three-one win over South Melbourne in Sydney. The Scottish star has now seven goals to his tally and from this last match, indication says that Petrie could bag a few more before the end of the season.

ROUND 14

Fri 12-12-03

Newcastle Utd vs Kingz

Sat 13-12-03

Brisbane Strikers vs Northern

Spir

Marconi vs Melbourne Knights

Sun 14-12-03

Sydney United vs Wollongong

Wolves

South Melbourne vs Parramatta

Power

Perth Glory - Bye

LEADING GOALSCORERS

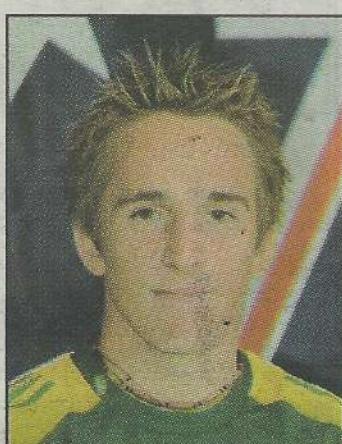
Name	Club	Total
MILICIC Ante	Parramatta	11
COVENY Vaughan	Sth Melbourne	7
MORI Damian	Perth Glory	7
PETRIE Stewart	Northern Spirit	7
CURCJA Michael	South Melbourne	7
PELIKAN Anthony	Melb Knights	5
DODD Travis	Parramatta Power	5
PONDELJAK Tom	Perth Glory	5
VEART Carl	Adelaide Utd	5

Perth Glory
vs
Sydney United
(Postponed)

BYE - MARCONI STALLIONS

2003 FIFA WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

U20 YOUNG SOCCEROOS FULL-LIST

Nathan Coe
(Inter Milan, Italy)Tom Willis
(Newcastle United)Michael Thwaite
(Marconi Stallions)Alex Wilkinson
(Northern Spirit)David Tarka
(Nottingham Forest, England)Wayne Heath
(Brisbane Strikers)Steve Pantelidis
(Melbourne Knights)Spase Dilevski
(Rot Weiss Essen, Germany)Massimo Murdocca
(South Melbourne)Carl Valeri
(Inter Milan, Italy)UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
27 NOVEMBER / 19 DECEMBER 2003Matthew McKay
(Brisbane Strikers)Jobe Wheelhouse
(Newcastle United)Jónathan Richter
(Northern Spirit)Dustin Wells
(Wollongong Wolves)Vince Lia
(South Melbourne)Mile Jedinak
(Varteks, Croatia)Anthony Danze
(Perth Glory)Scott McDonald
(Wimbledon, England)Alex Brosque
(Marconi Stallions)Michael Baird
(Sydney Olympic)

WELL DONE YOUNG ROOS!



'True blue collectables'

Finally Australia has a memorabilia company that specialises in Soccer! *True blue collectables*, a Sydney based company, is proud to announce that it has agreed with Harry Kewell to be his sole and EXCLUSIVE producer of his memorabilia in Australia.

This is fantastic news for Kewell, Liverpool and all Soccer fans as it will guarantee authenticity of Harry's signature to ensure you get what you pay for.

It also assures that you will be receiving a quality product produced using only acid-free matt boards and timber mouldings that live up to Harry Kewell's own high standards.

True blue collectables will be producing a stunning range of items catering for all Soccer fans and as they are the exclusive producer, you can save by buying direct from the manufacturer. You will not be disappointed.



Harry Kewell seen here with
'True blue collectables' Michael Dever.

With Harry now considered one of the top players in the World, it makes his memorabilia a "must have" for the discerning collector and Soccer fanatics.

This year saw Harry transfer from the only club he has known since he was 16 years old to the side he dreamt of as a child, Liverpool.

He also scored in both of Australia's monumental victories versus England and Jamaica, including the

game winner in the latter.

In July 2003, Harry turned down advances and big money offers from Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea to pursue his dream. He now proudly wears the famous red jersey of the most successful Football side in English history, Liverpool.

All of Harry's memorabilia is fully licensed by *True blue collectables* including a Certificate of Authenticity with an image of the signing, as

well as A-Tag authenticity. A-Tag is a 3rd party organisation that attend all of tbc's signings with Harry and add technology, including microchips and laser foils, to the memorabilia.

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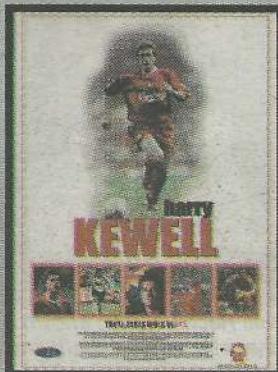
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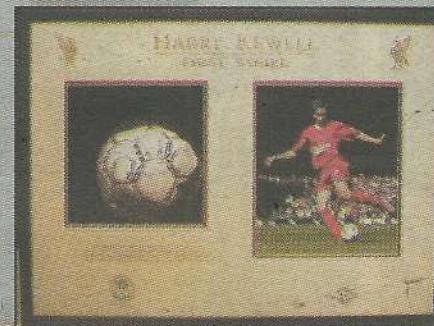
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by Mark Stavroulakis

VRKIC TURN AROUND

What a season it's been for Sydney United's towering defender Joe Vrkic. This time last season, the 27-year-old was hardly given a look in at Parramatta Power's squad but this season coach Grant Lee has centred his defence around the former youth international.

It's quite ironic that the former Power star only played 45 minutes in a first team match last year under coach Nick Theo and yet this year he has yet to miss a match for the Reds.

Mainly used as a Power youth player, this year it's looked like an injustice to have such a player with his quality even out of the starting 11 squad!

Having played close to 150 matches in his NSL career, one thing's for sure, United's defence has become rock solid and one that's been hard to crack.

Many soccer players could have put a season that Vrkic endured to heart and easily have left the game all up but to the defenders credit, he has worked wonders at the club.

The club boasts the best record for the least amount of goals conceded, not a bad effort for the Sydney based club.

Apart from Vrkic, twin tower defenders Mark Rusan and Damon Collina have really flourished with United this season alongside new keeper Liam Reddy.

Rusan is one not to mess with - his experience at National League level has really set apart his game this season.

As for Collina, the former Olympic player improves game after game and has become almost a recognisable scorer at the Sydney United Sports Centre.

Having hit no goals in the past couple of seasons, Collina can credit two to his name this year, more will surely follow.

As for custodian Liam Reddy, his 'Mike Tyson' style punch that Knocked out Mark Byrnes last year has certainly been forgotten with his bad boy image well and truly over, an U23 spot could well beckon for the ex-Parramatta keeper.

EURO CLUBS READY TO SWOOP FOR BROQUE

He has been labeled as Australia's next Harry Kewell, Fairfield born star Alex Brosque certainly has had a memorable few weeks since his departure with the U20 Young Socceroos squad in the UAE.

The 20-year-old has played brilliantly in the past three matches for the Roos with his play going unnoticed by two English Premier League clubs.

It is believed that giants Liverpool (home to our Kewell) and Middlesbrough have expressed an interest in the Marconi striker.

Both clubs had scouts present at Roos two-one victory over Canada last week and apparently produced some glowing reports to their clubs in England.

Brosque could well be yet another star set to leave Australian shores for that international dream of playing in one of Europe's most elite competition.

STATE FEDS UPSET?

It was reported from a close ABSW source that a number of State Federation members met last Friday in a bid to voice their anger towards the new ASA reform process that has taken its time to conclude.

Apparently some of these federations are unhappy with the reform process and the changes to their constitutions that have been

orchestrated under the Frank Lowy leadership. It's believed that former VSF chairman Manny Galanos is leading this charge.

NWAGAZI'S DREAM

Wollongong Wolves, currently labelled as the 'hot team' at the moment have added an extra spice of African style to their play under John Turner this season.

24-year-old Nigerian striker Chima Nwagazi has certainly worked wonders for the club.

It hasn't been the best of seasons for the former Fawkner Blues striker.

At the start of the NSL year, Nwagazi had both his father and brother pass away that devastated the former Nigerian golden boot winner.

Nwagazi contemplated on moving back to Nigeria after hearing the fate of both his father and brother but has used football as a sign of grieving.

His love for the sport has been second to none and this has been recognized by the good folk at WIN Stadium.

In return, big 'Chima' has notched up two goals and his goal trends seem to go from strength to strength.

Anybody that has watched the Wolves with Chima this year would have seen the amount of passion he plays with.

This surely is a credit to any player in the world that a player that could play with so much tragedy in their lives could kick on and defy the odds.

Well done Chima!!!

Baillie On The Mend

Many National League fans have wondered where "Popeye" has been lately.

The gritty Sydney Olympic defender has been out with an unusual injury not too many players have, suffering from torn muscles between the calf and Achilles tendon.

It was rather disturbing to hear that an ethnic paper last week ridiculed Scott's injury, a shame that such a player was put down that way.

By far, he is one of the very few players who wear their hearts on their sleeves and after returning from his stint in Newcastle, 'Bailes' was always going to call Olympic home towards the end of his footballing career.

His presence at the back has been sorely missed by the Blues, but the good news is that the 33-year-old will be back fitter and better than ever in his tailored number five jersey.

SYDNEY CLUBS UPSET AT SCHWAB?

It's believed that various Sydney NSL clubs have been upset at Tasforce member and former PFA chief Brendan Schwab who reportedly said that the Sydney clubs won't be around for the new APL year - many people are awaiting the unfoldings of this report which should be out sometime next week.

Perth to Look For New Players

Reigning National League champions Perth Glory have felt the brunt of a so far tough season with the side recording a number of injuries that have minimised the squad.

Five players are currently on Perth's injured list.

The never say die attitude of Matthew Horsley has been the main talking point with the former Wolves star sidelined for the rest of the season with a serious knee injury that was suffered against his former club a few weeks back.

Bobby Despotovski, Scott Miller, Tom Pondeljak and Adrian Caceres are all also on the injured list limiting coach Mick d'Avray's chances of putting together his best squad.



Young Socceroo midfielder and Glory member Anthony Danze has also been another player that has become unavailable for Perth and will do so for the next week or so.

"If we had to go into a game today, I have thirteen fit players of which two are goalkeepers," said the Glory boss on arriving back from Newcastle. "That gives you an idea of where we are at, at the moment."

D'Avray hinted that the re-opening of the transfer window in January would pose as an option for the club who hope to again regain the title in Western Australia.

REAL GOOD TIME FOR YOUNG KAZ

Two weeks ago 'From The Dressing Sheds' stated that there was a young Australian training at Spanish giants Real Madrid some weeks back.

The lucky youth star was Canberra born Kaz Patafa who trained with the Spanish side's youth squad through SFX agent Andy "Birch" Bernal.

Kaz will be interviewed in the next few weeks on his journey into Madrid but will hold meeting superstar David Beckham as one of his biggest thrills.

DANNI'S NIGHT OUT

ABSW's Melbourne correspondent Daniela Raco last week painted the town red so to speak after celebrating her 27th birthday in style and fashion - the good old fashioned Melbourne way.

Below are two shots from her birthday bash with some familiar faces from both the football pitch and the television screen.



Daniela Raco (middle) shown with Big Brother star Vincent (Left) and friend.



The Soccer Table: Adrian Cagalj (Left) - Damian Vojtek and Vilson Knezevic (Far-Right) shown flanking Birthday girl Daniela.

photo of the week

Somewhat of a common sight for the Marconi Stallions this season, referee's have whistled a number of times against JP's men. Shown in the left is Chad Gibson showing his disgust towards getting a caution at the hands of Matthew Breeze while Jeremy Harris looks 'dumb founded' as to why he was cautioned in

their Round 1 clash against the Knights with Craig Zetter the whistle-blower. Many NSL clubs have labelled the Stallions as a 'dirty' side, however with so much at stake, the club simply pride's itself on playing football from the heart - not much of that is done these days in the Australian game by any NSL club.

WELL DONE BOYS

Just a quick note from the editor to say a big congratulations to the Young U20 Roos squad who beat the Brazilians last week to clinch a second-round berth. Well done lads, keep your heads up, and do this nation proud - full marks goes out to Ange Postecoglou and his coaching staff as well.

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE

CENTRAL COAST SCRAPE BY DEMONS



Central Coast United

1
0

Blacktown City Demons

by Paul Goodwin

On an immaculate pitch, Blacktown City once again came unstuck in front of their own supporters when they were downed 1-0 by Central Coast.

The Central Coast rode their luck in recording their first win of the season, taking advantage of a Demons' send off six minutes earlier to hit the front in the 58th minute.

Yet in many ways they might well have gained the lead much earlier than that.

Twice in the first half hour they hit the underside of the bar, with Demons' keeper John Crawley stranded well off his line and they also got crosses in behind the defence which were not put away when there was a gaping goal at the mercy of a Central Coast striker.

The impetus for the visitors' win was an inspired performance from long-time striker Nathan Byrn, who chose a game against Blacktown, a side he has trialed with in the past, to show his very best.

Byrn tormented the Blacktown defence with his pace and acceleration, as well as his strength on the ball.

In the 26th minute Byrn's alert, long range shot from the right touchline came back off the underside of Crawley's bar, before being grateful grabbed again in the middle of the box by the relieved

Demons' skipper.

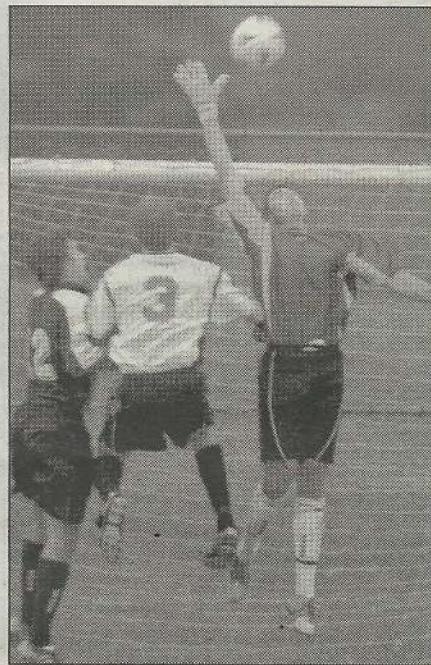
Byrn also got away down the left, on another raid, in the 31st to then cut the ball back to the far post for the lively Doug West who missed a telling touch by mere inches.

West, himself, had already rocked the underside of the same bar in the 20th with Crawley again in big trouble and able to claim the ball, belatedly, with some relief.

There was another lucky escape for the home side in the 33rd, when Crawley and Foxe tangled horribly in going for a high ball, but with Marc Falzon free in the box Byrn elected to try his luck from a more awkward position and could only clip the ball over the bar.

Blacktown had begun the game as if they intended to tear a Hitherto-winless Central Coast apart, but some magic work by keeper Matthew Trott kept Simon Catanzaro scoreless in the opening couple of minutes, when the Demons' man was one on one, after a pass had been threaded through to him by Marcus Phillips.

Trott outwitted the blond Demon with a great piece of safe and smart handling, when the danger looked all too real,



Central Coast goalkeeper Matthew Trott tips over under pressure from Blacktown's Damian Foxe

Catanzaro perplexed that he could not find a clear way through to goal after all.

Phillips had also missed narrowly with a shot of his own in the opening moments of the game, but as the game wore on it became evident that a Coast defence that had leaked goals the previous week was a far tighter unit with Sean Matthews restored to the backline and little space being afforded to the Demons' strikers.

The Coast hustled Blacktown off the ball repeatedly and used the speed of Byrn and West to make lightning-fast raids whenever they could.

The tactic paid off when the pair combined to score the only goal of the game in the 58th minute.

West shrugged aside three defenders and slipped the ball to Byrn who eased past his marker on the left before slotting the ball past Crawley.

Former United player Josh Maguire had been sent off six minutes earlier for a double incident of dissent that earned the wrath of referee Jonathan Streater and while that may not have weakened the Blacktown defence it did give the visitors the chance, for a short time, to

take some extra courage.

Once in front, however, the Central Coast side had to work very hard to preserve their slender lead.

Paul Urlovic and Catanzaro, along with substitute Brian Vanega, all toiled hard for the breakthrough, but it never came.

Trott came bravely off his line, by at least 15 yards, to claim a ball that Urlovic looked like taking right through by himself and the young keeper also had to get his fingertips to a ball headed towards goal by Damien Foxe and help it onto a post in the 69th.

Blacktown then created a swag of further chances, which they should have put away, but the Coasties had the luck on their side when Trott dropped a fierce Foxe cross only to see Catanzaro blast the ball well over the bar from right in front.

It was one of many late chances that the home side failed to accept, but the Central Coast were good value for their win all the same.

Winning coach Jim Foley was quietly pleased with the performance.

"We moved Matthews to the back this week and he steadied things down nicely for us. We looked far more composed with him back there.

Indeed, Matthews' steady touch and calmness under pressure were noteworthy.

"Nathan Byrn had one of his better games tonight and we'll be looking for more of that from him again," Foley continued.

"We are hoping he can reproduce that kind of form on a regular basis."

Brian Brown lamented his side's lack of confidence and discipline.

"It's early days yet but we have a small squad and three players were missing tonight."



CENTRAL COAST UNITED 1
(N Byrn 57)
BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS 0

at Gabble Stadium, Sevens Hills

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS: John Crawley (C), Damien Foxe, Ben Willard, Dane Hokin, Patrick Gatt, Paul Urlovic, Marcus Phillips, Josh Maguire, Simon Catanzaro, Luke Rodenburg, Jehan Loke (Brian Vanega 59)
Sub not used: RGK Brodie Crane, George McLean, Dominic Magill 46, Scott Jamieson
Coach: Brian Brown

CENTRAL COAST UNITED: Matthew Trott, Mitchell Daley, Sean Matthews, David Brewer; Daniel Surridge (Ben Murrell 53), John Dennis, Aaron Binskin, Bray Busch, Marc Falzon (C), Nathan Byrn (James Subat 73) Doug West

Sub not used: Phil Wurth
Coach: Jim Foley

Referee: Jonathan Streater
Assistant Referees: Steve McArdey and Jim Nicolau

Fourth Official: Greg Leadbeater
Red Card: Blacktown City Demons: Josh Maguire 52

Yellow Cards: Blacktown City Demons: Marcus Phillips 50, Josh Maguire 52 Central Coast United: Sean Matthews 54



Blacktown youngster Jehan Loke (right) puts in a tackle

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EDITOR: Ben Cubby
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Belconnen Devils Exterminate Penrith

by Paul Goodwin

The Blue Devils overcame stern resistance from a Penrith side that did all that it could to make life hard for the hosts in a stop start affair at McKellar Soccer Centre on Saturday night.

At least in the first half.

Penrith showed good control in the first half in the midfield and yet probably Belconnen had the better share of the chances in this period, but the scoresheet was still blank at half time.

The Blue Devils came out breathing fire after the break and when ace marksman Daniel Macor found some space in the penalty area after receiving a useful ball to his feet, he was able to catch the Panthers napping by turning superbly and firing past Panthers' keeper Chad Taylor from close range.

A true and typical opportunist goal by the leading scorer in the competition at this early stage.

Just 11 minutes later Macor it was who laid on the cross, after a wonderful run, that allowed Ilija Prenzski to head past Taylor for the second and a winning break.

Penrith responded with a shot from Peter Bennett in the 70th that smashed against the post but Belconnen continued to work hard to extend that handy lead.

Mike Katz had two chances in front of goal in the 28th and so did Prenzski a minute later.

There were numerous fruitless chances in the ensuing minutes before referee Ben Williams called a halt to proceedings.

There were some unsavoury incidents in the closing minutes too with the Blue Devils' Alex Castro given his marching orders for two cautions in quick succession and five minutes before the end Jason Connolly joined him on the sidelines after some serious foul play yielding a straight red for the Penrith man.

Macor, Prenzski and Castro all had strong games for the home side while Penrith's best was clearly Bennett, who was a true stand out in a side that lacked anyone capable of turning the game on its head.

Chris Tansey made some interesting comments about his side's contribution to the game.

"In the first half we took our time to get going. Penrith played a direct game and in the second half we changed our system. "We had to because we replaced Zamora with Popovich as Zamora had to leave the field with serious concussion and as it happened this worked well for us in second half."

"Castro's red card was disappointing but we really should have won by six. After all, we might need goal difference at the end of the season."

"It was a very pleasing win. We played good football and we deserved to win. "Having said that Penrith Panthers are a reasonable team and they will take points from quite a few in this league."

Tony Rasmussen did not have so much to say but was gracious in defeat. "We didn't defend well in the second half. Belconnen had too much space and we gave the ball away too many times. "We have got to score goals to win games."

One from three outings is not good enough. For Belconnen seven in the same period leaves them riding high and set for a great season once more.

BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS 2
(D Macor 48', I Prenzski 60')

PENRITH PANTHERS 0
at McKellar Soccer Centre, McKellar

BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS: Anthony Giannasca (C), Adrian Dowling, Lee Pietrukowski, Oscar Zamora (Topica, Popovich 42), Ilija Prenzski, Elliot Zwangobani, Daniel Macor (Daniel Camara 75), David Aranz, Nic Purdue (Scott Conlon 78), Alex Castro, Mike Katz.

Subs not used: Anthony Galloffi, Jimmy Carr.
Coach: Chris Tansey

PENRITH PANTHERS: Chad Taylor, Daniel Wells, Alan Wawi, Peter Bennett, Jason Connolly, Luke O'Connell (C), Tim O'Connell (Adam Anderson 68), Roger Galayini (Jason Sciberras 68), Daniel McCann (Malcolm Mellak 71), Luke Boyd, Marty McCaffery.

Subs not used: Danny Hinton, Kurt Van Arkels.
Coach: Tony Rasmussen

Referee: Ben Williams
Assistant Referees: Ned Sparks & Oren Kulawiec

Fourth Official: Damien Johnson
Red Card: Belconnen Blue Devils: Alex Castro 83'; Penrith Panthers: Jason Connolly 85'

Yellow Cards: Belconnen Blue Devils: Oscar Zamora 39, Elliott Zwangobani 45, Alex Castro 81 & 83; Penrith Panthers: Tim O'Connell 8, Peter Bennett 34

FIRST POINT FOR ROCKDALE



Rockdale City Suns

1



Canterbury-Marrickville

1

by Greg Stock

Rockdale picked up their first competition point for the season, a hard fought 1-1 draw with Canterbury-Marrickville Olympic at John Crehan Park on Saturday night, but the result raised more questions for coach Bill Pilovski than it answered.

Having been beaten soundly by St. George in their first match of the season 2-0, the Suns were expected to come out firing but like they did the previous week, they looked disjointed and lazy allowing the Berries free reign in the first half.

The result should have been put beyond doubt by the break but the home side were saved by some ineffective shooting from the Canterbury forwards who could manage just one goal from five clear cut chances.

Alan Picken scored the visitors only goal in the 18th minute when he drifted in between Nick Orlic and Richard Plesa to receive an Ahleas Kotsopoulos cross from the left, deftly dropping it to his right foot before peeling off a real worm burner, that deceived goalkeeper Peter Trajecevski. Already committed to his left, Trajecevski watched in vein as the ball trickled to his

right and nestled in the bottom corner of the net.

Picken's goal should have been the first of five, but the Berries troublesome forwards were unable to hit the mark despite being put in some great positions by a hardworking midfield of Picken, Sam Larocca and Dave Harding.

Mondello missing a straight forward one on one chance in the 36th minute, while his partner Leigh Gunn took too long to shoot in the 41st minute and saw his shot deflect wide of the mark.

Rockdale did finally flex a little of their attacking muscle in the second half, coming back strongly to level the scores in the 51st minute, but they were all too eager to push forward which allowed the visitors an opportunity to put pressure on their defence. Switching Denis Alilovic into the strikers position and pushing Harry James back into the midfield paid dividends for Suns who did show a bit more determination.

Alilovic found the net in the 51st minute when his free kick from the edge of the area sailed through a sea of legs and into the corner of the net, but with Bob Catlin pulling off a couple of great saves near the death it always seemed like a draw

was inevitable.

Canterbury coach Greg Woodhouse was pleased with his sides efforts given they had played three games inside a week. "I was happy to get a point after playing on a heavy pitch last Wednesday night," said Woodhouse.

"Some of the boys were tired but they dug deep and showed their character in the second half doing a mountain of defence."

His counterpart Bill Pilovski disappointed his team didn't take more from the game.

ROCKDALE CITY SUNS 1
(D Alilovic 52')

CANTERBURY-MARRICKVILLE 1
(A Picken 9')

at John Crehan Park, Cringilla

ROCKDALE CITY SUNS: 1. Peter Trajecevski, 4. Nick Orlic, 5. Richard Plesa (C), 6. Ben Deighan, 7. Peter Trajecevski, 8. Tony Sekulic, 9. Harry James, 11. Denis Alilovic, 16. Steve Bozinovski, 18. Steve Dimitrijevski (14. Malcolm Bideau 46'), 17. Steve Karavataki (13. Robert Todorovski 74'); **Coach:** Greg Woodhouse.

Cautions: N/A
Referee: Greg Leverton
Assistant Referees: S. Utterlinden and E. Utterlinden
Fourth Official: Ernest Horvath

"I am very disappointed with the result as I felt we had a couple of good chances near the end to take it," said Pilovski.

"We had Canterbury on the rack a couple of times but Bob Catlin saved their bacon and kept them in the contest."

The concern for Rockdale fans rests with his sides overuse of the football. While they have arguably the most attacking midfield in the league, their football is not direct enough, starving their strikers of the ball until the opposition defence is well set.

For the second successive week Steve Karavataki had a tough night out, forced to battle away one out against defenders the likes of David Cervinski and Cormack Begley. Without quality service, even he as the most productive striker in the league is going to struggle to score goals and Pilovski will need to shake up his troops if they are to realise their full potential.

ZLATKO STRIKES AGAIN



A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers

1



St George Saints

0

by Paul Goodwin

Two of the strongest sides in the competition slugged it out at Lambert Park in a tighter-than-tight encounter that was settled eventually by the simplest of goals from a marksman Zlatko Arambasic, in A.P.I.A. Leichhardt's favour, 1-0 over St George.

The first half had been typical of such games, with neither side able to penetrate and A.P.I.A. struggling to expose their opponents on the flanks, making slim pickings for front runners Arambasic and newcomer James Monie.

St George worked hard in their approach play, with Gabriel Mendez prominent and solid build-ups from the back, inspired by the cool-as-a-cucumber Mirko Jurilj from sweeper.

St George gave very little away in the middle of the park, with Raphael Bove and Mendez working constructively in the approach work, lending support to Daniel Watkins, who ploughed a lone furrow for much of the time, though Mendez was always there to join in from deep positions.

An uneventful first half came to a close with no meaningful shots from either side, though right on the half time whistle Paul Bilokapic did hit the side netting, after a James Stubbs-Mills ball crossed in from deep on the right had slipped through the fingers of Ricardo Patrizi and found its

way to the far post.

A.P.I.A. looked more dangerous after the resumption and Arambasic and Monie combined well to get the better of Vince Savoca in the 50th, but after Savoca had failed to clear effectively Monie's chance went begging.

At the other end Brad Swancott raced out to grab a ball from the toes of a determined Bove, after George Lagoudakis had beaten Dave Barrett on the left and played a sweet ball in for the Saints' captain to take towards goal.

In the 65th A.P.I.A. hit the lead with



A.P.I.A. Leichhardt's
Paul Bilokapic

what proved to be the winning goal.

Barrett crossed from the right and the St George defence watched statically as Norman Tome nodded the ball down cleverly for Arambasic, who made space for himself before firing clinically past Patrizi, to make scoring goals look as easy as shelling peas.

It was a good striker's goal.

Monie should have scored a second late, in the game, after an error by Simon Verrender had let him through to capitalise on a good pass from Arambasic that then required the St George man to head back to his keeper, a task he failed to put enough weight behind.

Verrender made amends, however, by intervening belatedly and clearing the ball

to safety.

Apart from a Webster cross that flew across the face of goal in the 67th St George rarely troubled the A.P.I.A. defence and Swancott had a very quiet evening of it.

A.P.I.A. coach Led De Celis felt that his side played well and deserved the win.

"We are improving every week and we were playing a good side tonight. We restricted them to very few shots and we thoroughly deserved our win. The game was very competitive and played at a good pace. Arambasic was outstanding."

The win, A.P.I.A.'s first of the season, was very welcome at Lambert Park and indicates that the Tigers are in business once more.

St George, who threw on Bruno Beddini late in the game, as well as James Kovas and Christian Cevenini, will still be hard to beat wherever they play, but perhaps they will need to take more risks on the road than they did here if they are to make the most of the quality in their squad.

A.P.I.A. LEICHARDT TIGERS 1

(Z Arambasic 66')

ST GEORGE SAINTS 0

at Lambert Park, Leichhardt

A.P.I.A. LEICHARDT TIGERS: Brad Swancott, David Barrett, Paul Dee, Andrew Clark, Damon Langan (C), Paul Bilokapic, Robbie Stanton, James Stubbs-Mills (Michael Galluzzo 80), James Monie, Norman Tome (Cristian Care 77), Zlatko Arambasic (Tony Alilovic 90)

Subs not used: Phil Weston (RGK), Dean Culina
Coach: Mammy Spanoudakis

ST GEORGE SAINTS: Ricardo Patrizi, Nick Borianitis (Bruno Beddini 73), Vince Savoca (James Kovas 83), Mirko Jurilj, Adrian Webster, Raphael Bove (C), Max Sevares, Gabriel Mendez, George Lagoudakis (Cristian Cevenini 66), Simon Verrender, Daniel Watkins

Sub not used: Phil Weston (RGK), Dean Culina

Coach: Mammy Spanoudakis

Referee: Craig Pearce

Assistant Referees: Leo Romero and Nick Dracakis

Fourth Official: Michael Collins

Yellow Cards: A.P.I.A. Leichardt Tigers: N/A; St George Saints: Adrian Webster 84

'Zelic-Style' Goal Beats Sydney Crescent Star



Sydney Crescent Star



Bonnyrigg White Eagles

0
1



by Greg Stock

Crescent Star's fairytale start to the Premier League season ended in the most unlikely of circumstances when beaten 1-0 by Bonnyrigg on Sunday evening.

Having shaded their more profile opponents for most of the match, they allowed a late strike from Manny Papageorgiou to ruin their night and send the club to their first defeat in three starts.

With the surface of Lidcombe Oval suffering the effects of the recent rain, both sides struggled to come to grips with the lush conditions, which slowed even the quickest pass.

Instead of adopting their usual counterattack style of game plan, Crescent Star were more content to play through their midfield using the giant Philip Marzec and fleet-footed Terry Atsas to steer the ball around the park.

Bonnyrigg tended to get their men behind the ball in numbers, and used Devrim Huseyin and Richard Harrison down the flanks to try and create their chances.

The closest either side came was a shot by Aaron Burgess just after the half-hour when he drilled onshot on the edge of the area for goalkeeper Steve Tolios to neatly steer around the post.

Despite the poor conditions, caused by drenching rain earlier in the week, the game opened up in the second half, providing more than a few anxious moments at either end.

Manny Papageorgiou bathed him-

famous Ned Zelic goal for the Olyroos against Holland.

Low and hard, it deceived Tolios enough to slip across the slick surface, beneath his burly frame, and nestle neatly in the back of the Crescent Star net.

"We knew Crescent Star are a dangerous team and our plan was to be disciplined and try to restrict their creativity in the midfield," said a very happy White Eagles coach Ljube Jancev.

"I had reinforced to the boys during the week our need to be patient when we attack and not to waste opportunities.

"Our goal came in the last ten minutes which says a lot about the how the team played tonight."

SYDNEY CRESCENT STAR . . . 0
BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES . . 1
(M Papageorgiou 81')

at Lidcombe Oval, Auburn

SYDNEY CRESCENT STAR: Steve Tolios, Michael Cindric, Evangelos Petratos, Askin Oygu, Anthony Hartshorn, Terry Atsas, Philip Marzec, Shane Hammond, (Hakan Sevgin 60'), George Issa, Yavus Ekincl (Daniel Willoughby 80'), Joe Bruni, Coach: Yasin Ozdenak.



Philip Marzec puts in a high challenge

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES: Steve Angelov, Tayfun Devrimol, Mark D'Alessandro, Richard Harrison (Scott Wells), Shane Ceverini, Miki Simonovic, Aaron Burgess (Dejan Malenica), Greg Collins, Chris Fleming, Emmanuel Papageorgiou, Devrim Huseyin, Coach: Ljube Jancev.

Referee: Peter Vrtković
Assistant Referees: Wayne Crabb and Sunny Afshar
Fourth Official: Peter Apostolou

self in glory when he drilled a low shot past an advancing Steve Tolios from the tightest of angles.

With former Saints team mate Angelo Petratos pushing him wide, the angle was reminiscent of the



Bonnyrigg goalkeeper Steve Angelov dives bravely between two Crescent Star players

Unbeaten Eagles Earn Another Point

by Greg Stock

Abizarre 75th minute equaliser from midfielder Anthony Mittiga was enough to stretch the Parramatta Eagles' unbeaten run to three matches and snatch two competition points from Bankstown City Lions on Sunday night at Jensen Park.

Down 1-0 to a Matthew Borg goal, the Eagles were awarded a free kick a good 35 yards out from goal on the left-hand side.

Sensing goalkeeper Con Anastasiadis was a few feet off his line to protect his penalty box from a looping cross, Mittiga lashed a drive that caught Anastasiadis napping and snuck in over his head and just under the bar.

Given the passionate nature of this encounter that goal was a gem in a game that was more akin to an arm wrestle as both teams struggled in the slippery conditions.

A little rusty from their midweek assignment against Canterbury, the Lions struggled for direction in the first fifteen minutes.

But, once they found their footing, they kept the visitors on the backfoot for the remainder of a tense first half.

In the absence of Marc Hoenselaars who was out with knee ligament damage, Matthew Borg and Aleksander Asanovic cut loose using their speed to constantly menace the Eagles.

With the pacey Robbie Gomez and Geoff Dwyer exploiting the flanks, it was Eagles goalkeeper Peter Munsie who pulled off three top class saves to keep his side in the hunt.

At the other end of the park, former Australian Joey Vic Costabile had the best chance of the half, when he rounded the 'keeper before having his shot cleared off the line by a quick-thinking Alex Trpkoski.

The home side finally got their just deserts in the 60th minute when Gomez was able to beat Mark Reveley to a loose ball and sneak a pass through to Borg inside the penalty box.

The enigmatic striker wasting no time to beat Munsie on the angle.

To their credit, the young Parramatta side did not give in and continued to come at the home side,

Costabile going close with a header just moments before Mittiga stepped up with his free kick.

"Given all the other results of the weekend, this was a good chance for us to push up the table and we are disappointed to not to have taken the opportunity," said Parramatta Eagles coach Trevor Morgan.

"In terms of chances, we gave as good as we got, and probably should have put more pressure on Bankstown had we scored in the first half."

Lions coach Andy Papoulias also disappointed his team didn't go on with the job.

"We manufactured some excellent chances and I am disappointed that we didn't have 3 or 4," said Papoulias.

"We dominated the game for long periods but didn't get the result, but I am happy with the boys effort and feel we are improving with every game."

BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS
(M Borg 60')
PARRAMATTA EAGLES
(A Mittiga 75')

at Mingara Sat. 29th Nov. 2003

BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS: Con Anastasiadis, Richard Lukic, Matthew Pressello, Dimitri Nicolaou, Saso Trajcevski, Alex Trpkoski, Geoff Dwyer, Phil Hartshorn, Robbie Gomez, Matthew Borg, Aleksander Asanovic, Coach: Andy Papoulias.

PARRAMATTA EAGLES: Peter Munsie, Mark Reveley, Daniel Borg, John Kelso, Ben Delicata (Michael De Bono), Matthew O'Shea, Ismael Arrarte (Luciano Berbis), Anthony Mittiga, Andy Kane, Matthew Clowes, Vic Costabile, Coach: Trevor Morgan.



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FIRST GRADE RESULTS & TABLES

Rockdale City Suns 1	Canterbury-Marrickville Olympic .1
(D Alilovic 52')	(A Picken 9')
Belconnen Blue Devils 2	Penrith Panthers 0
(D Macor 48', I Prenzski 60')	
Blacktown City Demons 0	Central Coast United 1
(N Byrn 57')	
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 1	St George Saints 0
(Z Arambasic 66')	
Sydney Crescent Star 0	Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1
(M Papageorgiou 81')	
Bankstown City Lions 1	Parramatta Eagles 1
(M Borg 60')	(A Mittiga 75')

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Belconnen Blue Devils	3	2	1	0	7	1	6	7
Sydney Crescent Star	3	2	0	1	6	2	4	6
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	2	2	0	0	3	1	2	5
Parramatta Eagles	3	1	2	0	4	1	3	5
Blacktown City Demons	3	1	1	1	3	1	2	4
Bankstown City Lions	3	1	1	1	4	3	1	4
St George Saints	3	1	1	1	3	-2	1	4
Canterbury Marrickville	3	1	1	1	2	5	-3	4
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	3	1	0	2	3	5	-2	3
Central Coast United	3	1	0	2	1	6	-5	3
Rockdale City Suns	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	1
Penrith Panthers	3	0	0	3	1	8	-7	0

GRADE 20 RESULTS & TABLES

Rockdale City Suns 4	Canterbury-Marrickville 1
(K Miric 47', S Yildiz 60', K Terkes 69', E Luland 85')	(R Hutchison 83')
Belconnen Blue Devils 1	Penrith Panthers 1
(A Williams 50')	(D Hinton 42')
Blacktown City Demons 2	Central Coast United 0
(S Jamieson 83', D Storey 89')	
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 2	St George Saints 2
(M Raciti 23', M Mengi 75')	(K Saterdag 60', D Jaganjac 75')
Sydney Crescent Star 3	Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3
(S Akar 30', C Jasli 58', S Akar 85')	(D Drca 36'/70', M Sartoretto 90')
Bankstown City Lions 0	Parramatta Eagles 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Parramatta Eagles	3	3	0	0	11	1	10	9
Belconnen Blue Devils	3	2	1	0	5	2	3	7
Blacktown City Demons	3	2	0	1	5	5	0	6
Bankstown City Lions	3	2	0	1	8	9	-1	6
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	2	1	1	0	6	2	4	4
St George Saints	3	1	1	1	5	4	1	4
Rockdale City Suns	2	1	0	1	4	3	1	3
Sydney Crescent Star	2	0	2	0	4	4	0	2
Penrith Panthers	3	0	1	2	5	7	-2	1
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	2	0	1	1	3	7	-4	1
Central Coast United	3	0	1	2	1	5	-4	1
Canterbury Marrickville	3	0	0	3	2	10	-8	0

NEXT ROUND 4

FIRST GRADE

HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	DATE	KICK-OFF	GROUND
St George Saints	v Sydney Crescent Star	Sat. 13th Dec.	7.00pm	St George Stadium
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v Central Coast United	Sat. 13th Dec.	7.00pm	Serbian Centre
Penrith Panthers	v Rockdale City Suns	Sat. 13th Dec.	7.00pm	Cook Park
Canterbury-Marrickville	v A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	Sun. 14th Dec.	5.00pm	Henson Park
Bankstown City Lions	v Blacktown City Demons	Sun. 14th Dec.	6.00pm	Jenson Park
Parramatta Eagles	v Belconnen Blue Devils	Sun. 14th Dec.	6.00pm	Melita Stadium

GRADE 20

HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	DATE	KICK-OFF	GROUND
St George Saints	v Sydney Crescent Star	Sat. 13th Dec.	5.00pm	St George Stadium
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v Central Coast United	Sat. 13th Dec.	5.00pm	Serbian Centre
Penrith Panthers	v Rockdale City Suns	Sat. 13th Dec.	5.00pm	Cook Park
Canterbury-Marrickville	v A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	Sun. 14th Dec.	3.00pm	Henson Park
Bankstown City Lions	v Blacktown City Demons	Sun. 14th Dec.	4.00pm	Jenson Park
Parramatta Eagles	v Belconnen Blue Devils	Sun. 14th Dec.	4.00pm	Melita Stadium

LEADING GOALSCORERS

3	Daniel Macor (BBD), Ilya Prenzski (BBD),
2	Hakan Sevgin (SCS), Filip Marzec (SCS),
1	Manny Papageorgiou (BWE), Matthew Borg (BCL),
	Raphael Bove (SG), Josh Maguire (BCD),
	Marcus Phillips (BCD), Luke Roodenburg (BCD),
	David Barrett (ALT), George Issa (SCC),
	Yavuz Ekinici (SCS), Matthew Clowes (PE),
	Vic Constable (PE), Jamie Subat (CCU),
	Daniel Surridge (CCU), Norman Tome (AL),
	Daniel Watkins (SG), James Kovas (SG),
	Jason Connolly (PP), Greg Collins (BWE),
	Alex Asanovic (BCL), Dimitri Nicolaou (BCL),
	Anthony Galliozzi (BBD), Denis Alilovic (RCS)
	Zlatko Arambasic (ALT), Tony Mittiga (PE)
	Nathan Byrn (CCU), Allen Picken (PE)

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE TIPPING COLUMN



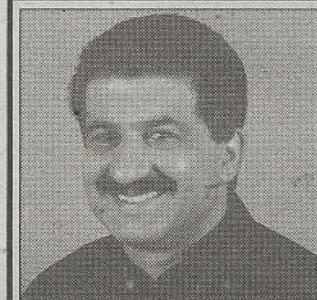
PAUL GOODWIN
SOCER NSW JOURNALIST
ST GEORGE
BONNYRIGG
PENRITH
A.P.I.A. LEICHARDT
BLACKTOWN
BELCONNEN

Points = 5



TARYN ROCKALL
NSW SAPPHIRES CAPTAIN
DRAW
BONNYRIGG
ROCKDALE
A.P.I.A. LEICHARDT
BLACKTOWN
DRAW

Points = 5



ANDY PASCHALIDIS
ELITE SPORTS TRAVEL
CRESCENT STAR
CENTRAL COAST
ROCKDALE
A.P.I.A. LEICHARDT
BLACKTOWN
DRAW

Points = 8



GREG STOCK
SOCER NSW JOURNALIST
ST GEORGE SAINTS
BONNYRIGG
ROCKDALE
CANTERBURY
BLACKTOWN
BELCONNEN

Points = 3



'PEANUTS'
THE MONKEY
CRESCENT STAR
BONNYRIGG
PENRITH PANTHERS
A.P.I.A. LEICHARDT
BLACKTOWN
DRAW

Points = 5

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ROUND 4 PREVIEW

WITH PAUL GOODWIN & GREG STOCK



St George Saints vs Sydney Crescent Star



**Saturday 13th December at St George Stadium
Kick-off 7.00pm First Grade / 5.00pm Grade 20**

The Saints and Crescent Star were both unbeaten before last weekend's round of matches, but each of them emerged with 1-0 losses against possibly the top two teams in the league.

The question now, of course, is can Crescent Star, who possess a 100 per cent record on their travels, bounce back to full form and repel the St George side on their own turf?

Crescent Star battled away well at Lidcombe Oval to hang on until the last few minutes before a magic goal from former St George striker Manny Papageorgiou nailed a win for the White Eagles there. It showed the Star capabilities in defending but we all know that they really love to attack.

Here their strikers may be given a little more room in which to operate and roam freely, while the Saints, too,

are bound to open up in attack far more than they did at either Belconnen or A.P.I.A.

Having beaten Rockdale, another attacking side, in their last home game the Saints should be ready to return to the winner's circle here.

The big issue will be whether Manny Spanoudakis, the Saints coach, will find a spot for evergreen striker Bruno Beddoni in his starting line-up after using him off the bench in his most recent outings. Beddoni did play the full game against Rockdale and may well be the man to prise open the Crescent Star defence, which is being well led by one-time Saints' stalwart Angelo Petratos.

A game between these sides has already been played out twice in the Johnny Warren Cup pre-season tournament where Crescent Star emerged with a 2-0 win and a scoreless draw.



Bonnyrigg White Eagles vs Central Coast United



**Saturday 13th December at Serbian Centre
Kick-Off 7.00pm First Grade / 5.00pm Grade 20**

Who would have tipped the Central Coast to knock over the defending premiers last week?

The result showing that in this league, any result is possible. Despite the win, the team faces arguably the toughest away trip in the league, with Bonnyrigg coach Ljube Jancev confident his team has what it takes to put on a bold showing.

"I didn't go to their game against Blacktown but we had a couple of players who did, so we have some idea how they play," said Jancev.

"My main focus is on my team, if we can stick to our game plan, be disciplined in defence and patient in attack we should be able to do enough at home," The wily Jancev commented.

Jancev will also have Fernando Pellegrino and Freddy Umlil back from injuries.

Both players were given the extra week off and did not take part in the game against Sydney Crescent Star. If Bonnyrigg are to attack with their usual finesse, they two will be back in the side to face United.

Central Coast United, in their earlier guise of the Coasters, have only beaten the White Eagles once in eight previous visits there. That win came way back in 1997.

Last season Bonnyrigg dished out a 7-2 hiding at The Serbian Centre and followed it up with a come from behind 3-2 win in the final round at Pluim Park in Lisarow.

The White Eagles certainly have the class to make a mark in this match, but first they will have to get past Central Coast player Sean Matthews, who was a tower of strength at the back against Blacktown last week.



Canterbury-Marrickville vs A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers



**Sunday 14th December at Henson Park
Kick-Off 5.00pm First Grade / 3.00pm Grade 20**

These two top sides meet in what has always been a tight derby fixture over the years.

A.P.I.A. managed a draw in midweek in a rearranged game last term and a season before that had won there narrowly.

Visits to Henson Park have definitely favoured the Tigers in recent seasons. Canterbury, buoyant now after wins at Bankstown in midweek and a hard fought draw at Rockdale, will want to get stuck into this one.

The backline, well led by Cormac Begley and David Cervinski, should hold the talented A.P.I.A. front-runners alright, but the big issue is whether either midfield can dominate the other.

The way that skipper Allan Picken and new man Sam Larocca have been playing for the Berries so far - both former Tigers of course - is bound to have an important

influence on the result.

This one looks as intriguing a Sunday fixture as we can find and should draw a lot of locals to the grand old ground in the heart of Marrickville.

Greg Woodhouse was a relieved man when his side opened their account at Bankstown and then snatched a point from Rockdale, four days later.

Here he has a chance to see his side at last bury that Henson Park hoodoo that seems to be following them around.

Rather than making their home ground a fortress the side seems to be carrying it like an albatross around their necks and a win here would go a long way to getting some sanity back for the Berries.

Canterbury need a win in front of their home supporters, and beating A.P.I.A. would do the trick.

Having been beaten by Blacktown and Bankstown already at home and by Belconnen away, the Panthers will probably be relieved at last to play a team further down the alphabet, in Rockdale City Suns, this Saturday night.

Rockdale surrendered a comfortable lead to draw 3-3 last season at Andrews Road and having snared their first point themselves the previous week will be looking to go two better at Cook Park, St Marys, the Panthers' new home ground this season.

Penrith had made changes for their visit to Canberra to play Belconnen and it looked as if they played with plenty of fire against a team that looks set to lead the table or be thereabouts for most of the campaign.

Penrith has had some tough games to start their season off, with Blacktown and Belconnen in particular

awkward ones to start off with.

They have a chance here to put some points on the board but they do still seem to lack an effective finisher.

If Rockdale does not put in the necessary hard work then the Panthers will surely punish them, as the one thing they do want to do is get off the mark here. But the Suns do have the firepower to get home.

Rockdale will have the Moric brothers back this week, after Joe Moric was married last weekend and elder sibling, Ante, attended the wedding.

Suns' supporters will be keen to see their side post a first win of the season, for they too have had a difficult start to the campaign, with the postponed Bonnyrigg game and the draw with Canterbury last weekend.

This game has the potential to be anything and either team can win without surprising.



Bankstown City Lions vs Blacktown City Demons



**Sunday 14th December at Jenson Park
Kick-Off 6.00pm First Grade / 4.00pm Grade 20**

The Demons casualty list from their shock defeat to the Coasters is a long one. Bishara Stephan and Ben Willard will almost certainly be ruled out with injury. Josh Maguire will miss the match with the customary one-week suspension after indiscretions against Central Coast United last week.

Bankstown have their own availability concerns with lanky striker Marc Hoenselaars out with knee ligament damage, while former Young Socceroo defender Paul Wearne is likely to be unavailable due to work commitments.

Fernando De Los Santos has unfortunately returned home to Uruguay with visa problems, prompting Bankstown coach Andy Papoulias to reshuffle his team as best he can.

"We are struggling a little with injuries and will go in

against Blacktown a little light on for depth," said Papoulias.

"Losing Marc Hoenselaars is a big blow but Matthew Borg has been in excellent form and could be the one to step up this week."

Last season the Lions sprung a surprise on Blacktown in round two knocking them over 1-0 in a tight affair. In the return game the merciless Demons exacted their resounding revenge with a 4-0 drubbing.

Blacktown will be raring to go after losing 1-0 Central Coast last week - all the more so because they had chances to win the game and let them pass by.

These two clubs have a long history of absorbing encounters, going back through the 1990's, when both sides were streets ahead of others in the State League competition.



Parramatta Eagles vs Belconnen Blue Devils



**Sunday 14th December at Melita Stadium
Kick-Off 6.00pm First Grade / 4.00pm Grade 20**

Belconnen are by far and away the form side of the competition thus far but won't have it all their own way against the youthful Eagles outfit.

Parramatta have surprised many in the first three weeks and remain unbeaten after a win and two draws.

"We might lack the composure of some of the more experienced teams but the boys are learning quickly and don't feel overawed at this level," said coach Trevor Morgan.

"Every team for us is a tough opponent and it all comes back to how the ball bounces on the day. Because we are so young we need each and every player to be at their best each week and hope that some of our more experienced heads can help steer the boys around the park," the experienced Morgan said.

"We had a 2-2 draw with Belconnen in the trial

games so we have a fair idea of what to expect."

Away to Parramatta last year, the Blue Devils posted a scoreless draw before dishing out a 4-0 loss in Canberra and squeaking home 1-0 in the Elimination Semi-Final.

In their six previous league meetings, the record stands at 2 wins each with 2 draws, suggesting that this match will produce a tight outcome.

Belconnen need to keep winning now that they have established a very early lead on the Premier League table: they are now a side that everyone particularly wants to beat.

Danny Macor appears to be their danger man again, while others such as Ilya Prenzski and Alex Castro have been looking strong in recent weeks.

This should be a very revealing match-up.



WOMEN'S NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

SAPPHIRES QUALIFY FOR FINALS



Young NSW Sapphires midfielder Emma Davison

by Janene Mar

NSW Sapphires and Queensland Sting are confirmed as Women's National Soccer League grand finalists after this weekend's Round Nine action.

Defending champions Queensland secured first position with one round still remaining, and therefore the chance to host the decider, whilst NSW assured themselves of the other final berth despite today drawing their third consecutive match.

On Sunday, in the doubleheader before the NSL's Northern Spirit match, NSW Sapphires had to be content with a 3-3 draw with Adelaide Sensation from a seesaw, exciting clash between two attacking teams.

Sapphires were the more composed on the ball overall and enjoyed the greater number of chances, whilst Adelaide were dangerous on the break and always in the

game. Sensation went with the stiff southerly wind in the first half, but it was the home side who caused the early pressure, Jo Burgess and then Michelle Carney not far wide within the first ten minutes.

At the other end, it wasn't long before livewire Lisa De Vanna started causing headaches for the Sapphires defence.

Midway through the half, Leah Blayney was finding space and peppered the goal with several shots.

In the 27th minute, Blayney was the provider for the opening goal, cutting the ball back for Taryn Rockall who hit the back of the net from 20 metres, giving the goalkeeper little chance.

Adelaide, never content to dwell on matters, fought back and were rewarded with two goals within three minutes to take the lead into the halftime break.

Leanne Slater's freekick from out wide was perhaps meant more as a cross but with the wind behind it, escaped the

attempted headed clearance by a defender and bounced into an empty net for the equaliser.

A Vicki Balomenos through ball then picked out De Vanna, beating the offside trap for a one-on-one with the keeper and the striker converted with a shot just inside the near post. Burgess had a chance to level for NSW but the attempt went just wide.

The wind continued to play a role in the second half, an early Kylie Ledbrook cross for NSW flying over the keeper and hit the crossbar. It was clear there were more goals to come in this contest. NSW levelled at 2-2 in the 57th minute, a Blayney cross found Burgess on the byline who cut back to Carney on the penalty spot and the ball was threaded through traffic into goal.

Sensation snatched the lead back in the 66th minute, NSW losing possession and allowing De Vanna in for her second goal. Slightly off her line, the keeper attempted

to steer the high ball up over the crossbar but without success.

Seven minutes later, Sapphires got back on equal terms once again with Carney's second for the match.

From a very acute angle on the right with everyone expecting a cross, Carney neatly beat the keeper inside the near post. All square at 3-3.

In the next seven minutes, NSW went all out for the winner, Blayney again with several shots, then setting up Rockall, a chance which keeper Emma Wirkus smothered just in time.

A Ledbrook freekick from distance saw Wirkus fumble but regather with Carney racing in for the challenge. Wirkus then pulled off a great save to deny a long-range piledriver from Ledbrook.

The action didn't let up in the dying minutes, with both keen to grab the three points, Adelaide's best chance seeing De Vanna losing out to substitute keeper

Monique Jackson who got down well to prevent the winner.



NSW SAPPHIRES 3
(Taryn Rockall 27m, Michelle Carney 57m, 73m)
ADELAIDE SENSATION 3
(Leanne Slater 38m, Lisa De Vanna 41m, 66m)
at Pittwater Park, Sydney



The NSW Sapphires will be meeting Queensland Sting once again, in the Grand Final

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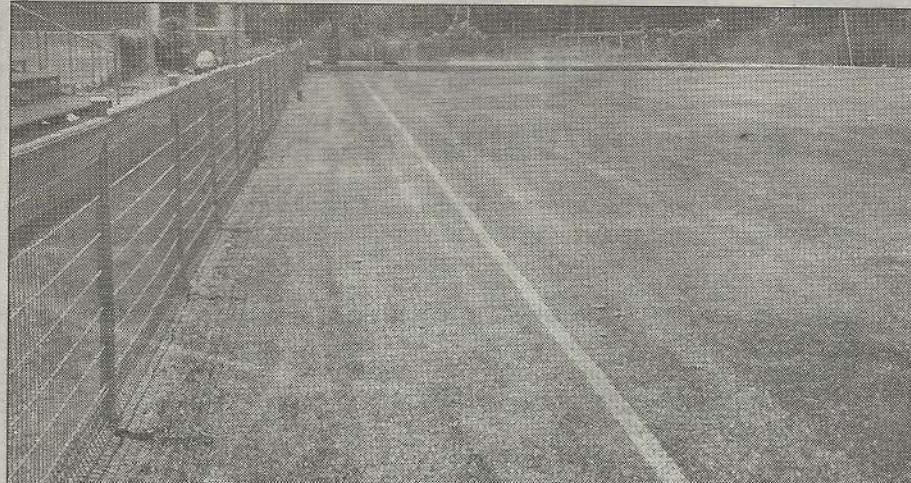
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FROM THE SIDELINES

WITH GREG STOCK



Surface Issue

A week is a long time in football – so what is with Happening to the surface at Jensen Park? In round one, the Canterbury match was called off the day before the game after the council decided to close the ground due to the condition of the surface.

The following week, the rescheduled match is played in the midst of one of the worst storms seen this decade and the match is played with only a minor interruption.

Moric Marries

Joe Moric and his brother Ante were notable absentees from the Rockdale line up on Saturday night for a very good reason. Joe was being married, while Ante was his best man. Congratulations Joe!

Poor Dave

Poor old Dave Gardiner can't seem to take a trick at present. Far being disgraced in the Berries round one wallop by Belconnen, the defender has contracted glandular fever, which could see him out of action for anything up to three months.

Dos Santos heads home

Bankstown's flamboyant midfielder Fernando Dos Santos has sadly had to return to Uruguay due to visa problems. The club is confident he can return later in the season but for now he has made his way back to South America.

The Lions are also without key striker Marc Hoenselaars who has a knee problem forcing coach Andy Papoulias to partner Matthew Borg with Aleksander Asanovic. Defender Paul Wearne has also been in and out in recent weeks owing to work commitments.

Ham and Pineapple

Bankstown goalkeeper Con Anastasiadis is going to see plenty of his former A.P.I.A. team mate Sam Larocca in the next few seasons. In the warm-ups before the Bankstown v Berries game last Wednesday night, Anastasiadis promised Larocca free pizza at his restaurant at Annandale if he scored the winner.

Lo and behold when Sam bobbed up to find the net with a 'doozie' of a shot it was Anastasiadis who

one who was completely deceived in more ways than one. "Bring on the Ham and Pineapple," said Larocca.

If you pay peanuts...

Thanks for all the 'fan mail' from those who decided to contact FTS and gently remind me that "Peanuts" the monkey has leaped ahead of me in the tipping comp.

Despite my poor performance in recent weeks I do remind you all that I am the 'kiss of death' so watch out if I tip your side!

Hajduk light up

Hajduk Wanderers United are another club who have been busy during the off-season. President Charles Abdilla reports that Fairfield City Council has approved the clubs development application for new floodlights with work commencing shortly on their construction.

Urlovic: Blacktown or Switzerland?

Despite stumbling to Central Coast United last Saturday night, Blacktown City again look one of the sides to beat in this years Premier League. One of their newest recruits who has caught the eye in the first couple of matches is Kiwi International striker Paul Urlovic.

On the books of the Football Kingz last season, Urlovic has made the move to Australia, more out of love than for anything football, but now he is here it's all business. "At the end of last season things at the Kingz just didn't work out," said Urlovic.

"I enjoyed playing for the club in my hometown of Auckland but there were financial issues so I made the decision to come to Australia and see what I could pick up here.

The main motivation for the move was my girlfriend.

She is Australian and she'd made a huge sacrifice

to come to New Zealand while I was there, so now it was my turn to follow her home, so here we are."

Urlovic's career took off in the late 1990's when he was drafted into the New Zealand National Team for the Confederation Cup qualifiers. Few Australian soccer supporters could forget that tragic loss to our old foe, but what was the Socceroos loss was definitely the All-Whites gain, as they took the prize money and the opportunity to play their trade on the world stage.

"Playing in the Confederations Cup in Mexico when I was eighteen was the best footballing moment of my career so far," continued Urlovic. "To be rubbing shoulders with the world's best was a huge thrill and something I won't forget in a hurry."

But some injuries in the later stages of the last Confederations Cup campaign saw Urlovic ruled out of the All-Whites team which travelled to France.

"That for me was very disappointing," said Urlovic.

"New Zealand played against France, Colombia and Japan so I could have played against like Henry and Zidane, but it was not to be, so now I have to do it all over again and show the selectors back home I am good enough to return to the national squad."

So what does the future hold for Urlovic, who has just celebrated his 25th birthday? "I had the opportunity to play National League with the Brisbane Strikers, but they knocked me back on the basis that my agent has organized some trials for me in Switzerland in January," said Urlovic.

"My knee is fine now, I had an MRI scan just recently and it's all clear, so the main aim is to try and get as much match time under my belt before heading to Switzerland later this month."

Blacktown have been very understanding about the situation and have supported my decision to trial so if things don't work out over there I'll definitely be back to help them win the championship."

Lions choke on Berries



Rockdale City Suns



Canterbury-Marrickville

by Paul Goodwin

A thunderstorm an hour before the game and steady rain throughout the Grade 20 fixture posed a threat to the senior match going ahead, but as soon as referee Simon Przydacz blew his whistle to start the event, the clouds rolled away.

Canterbury were expected to do a lot better, after an excellent pre season run, but last Sunday having come to grief against Belconnen, they needed to try again.

Thus they travelled to Jensen Park to kick start their season, belatedly, on a night of heavy rain and storms that had swept across Sydney in the evening.

While Bankstown began brightly they faded badly before the break and relaxed completely once play resumed on a completely sodden, but safe, pitch.

A thunderstorm an hour before the game and steady rain had looked to threaten the game going ahead, but as soon as referee Simon Przydacz blew his whistle to start the game, the clouds rolled away.

While Bankstown appeared to really go at the Berries early on, most of the chances recorded were to the visitors.

Dimitri Nicolaou clipped a 30 yard shot just over in the 5th minute and Sam Larocca brought out a finger tip save from Con Anastasiadis in the 12th.

Allan Picken's low shot flashed wide

of the left post in the 23rd, from distance and Larocca fired wide in the 35th.

Meanwhile Matt Borg had broken through on the left in the 17th, after a Geoff Dwyer pass only to stumble inside the six yard box and Borg was not good enough to beat Bob Catlin in the 34th when played in behind the defence by Alex Asanovic.

Canterbury dominated for the first 15 minutes of the second half and Bankstown saw little of the ball.

Inevitably, it seemed, a Berries goal would come; and it did in the 58th minute.

Former A.P.I.A. favourite, Sam Larocca, spotted an opening and drilled a low shot, via a deflection, past Con

Anastasiadis for the only goal of the game.

Moments before Aheleas Kotsopoulos had a strong effort tipped over the bar and Leigh Gunn and Dave Harding had also gone close.

It was a very poor second half by Bankstown. In fact probably their last hour was below par and they never looked like tearing Canterbury apart at any stage.

Bankstown were without Marc

BANKSTOWN CITY: Con Anastasiadis, Paul Wearne (Zarko Glavas 83), Richard Luksic, Saso Trajecevski, Geoff Dwyer, Alex Trpkoski (Phil Hartshorn 72), Robert Gomez (Steve Llavaras 59), Matthew Presello, Dimitri Nicolaou, Matt Borg, Alex Asanovic
Subs not used: RGK Zlatko Josevski and Robert Mileski
Coach: Andy Papoulias

CANTERBURY-MARRICKVILLE: Bob Catlin, Sasa Utjesenovic, David Cervinski (C), Cormack Begley, Ben Price, Sam Larocca, David Harding, Alan Picken,

Aheleas Kotsopoulos, Anthony Mondello (Paul Bourke 90), Leigh Gunn (Archie Markopoulos 80)
Subs not used: John Kyriazopoulos, Jason Saba
Coach: Greg Woodhouse

Referee: Simon Przydacz
Assistant Referees: Sam D'Imperio and Richard Kepp
Fourth Official: Jim Nicolaou
Yellow Cards: Bankstown: Alex Trpkoski 72; Canterbury: Anthony Mondello 89

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Liverpool Rangers Soccer Club

Liverpool Rangers is the largest club within the Southern Districts Association, with over 650 registered players.

Liverpool Rangers Soccer Club was founded in 1963 and first took part in Southern Districts competitions in 1964. The club originally played at the army ground, Yulong Oval, Moorebank, for two years before moving to a temporary ground at Woodward Park, Liverpool.

It finally arrived at its present home, Ireland Park, Liverpool, one year later.

The complex now houses three full fields and two mini-fields. The club house at Ireland Park was an old school building annex purchased at auction and since extended to provide a small but comfortable canteen and meeting room. Rangers has long supported women's and girls soccer, with the All Age Ladies mak-

ing it to the grand final for nine out the last ten seasons.

Rangers has also seen some players go on to bigger things, the most recent being Christian Care and Buddy Farah. The Rangers complex is used by many important soccer bodies for special events.

These include the Southern Districts Association for its lower (Div 2) Grand Final matches, the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation for State Cup and Champion of Champions matches and finals of the Women's State League finals in 1997, NSW Schools Soccer Association for its Annual Zone Championships for the last four years and for the State Championships last season (voted the best ever venue by all competing teams) and in 2002.

Courtesy of Liverpool Rangers interesting website: liverpoolrangers.tripod.com

Patikas Optimistic for Winter Super League

By Greg Stock

While most of our collective focus is on the Premier League, the Winter Super League clubs have nearly all started trials and pre-season training.

One of those is Dulwich Hill whose flamboyant coach Jim Patikas, is confident he can lift the ailing club back into top five calculations.

"Last season was always going to be struggle and when I took over midway through the year we were anything but certain of avoiding relegation," said Patikas.

"The main aim was to avoid the bottom three and to blood as many young players as we could, and we did achieve both of those."

Their spot in next season's competition assured Patikas has embarked on a recruiting drive to secure the best young talent available. John Theodoropoulos the Hawks defender, who was given his first opportunity at senior football by Patikas at Canterbury has arrived, and he is joined by John Pieris and Andrew Falas.

Jose Mendes has indicated he is prepared to return to the fold once his National League commitments with Sydney Olympic have concluded while former Saints goalkeeper Michael Xuereb has signed on for another year giving the former Socceroo plenty of



good young cattle from which to form a side.

"The way the competition has gone in recent seasons, means that the standard of competition will be high, so it is up to us to compete right from the word go and make an impact," continued Patikas.

"There is no use waiting for Premier League players to come in halfway through the year and then try and win games, you need to make sure you win matches early and position yourself in the top half of the competition and move from there."

I have been happy with the players I have signed and if we can get one or two more I feel we would be capable of at least a mid table finish and possibly the top five." Patikas will be assisted by long-time friend Arthur Kassis again next season.

Hajduk light up
Hajduk Wanderers United are another club who have been busy during the off-season. President Charles Abdilla reports that Fairfield City Council has approved the clubs development application for new floodlights with work commencing shortly on their construction.



Complex/Venue Assistant

An exciting opportunity exists for an enthusiastic and hardworking person to provide assistance to the Manager of Valentine Sports Park, based in Glenwood.

This position requires the successful candidate to take ownership of the role and involves a wide range of interesting tasks including meeting and greeting customers, taking bookings for facilities, liaising with suppliers and staff, processing invoices, market research, and providing strong administrative support to the Manager and department.

In this role the successful candidate will gain experience with event management, dealing with local, interstate and overseas guests, touring sporting and non sporting teams along with gaining exposure to the provision of hospitality services and general facility management and associated responsibilities.

Essential requirements:

- ◆ Experience in an administration role.
- ◆ Relevant tertiary qualifications
- ◆ Strong computer literacy in MS Office and database applications.
- ◆ Strong organisation and time management skills.

A keen interest in soccer or sport and flexibility in work hours is advantageous. Remuneration will be commensurate with experience and also dependant upon acquired skills and qualifications. This position is a Child Related Position and will be subject to a Working With Children Check. Prohibited Persons need not apply.

Please forward your resume marked Private & Confidential to:

Linda Christie
Human Resources
PO BOX 6146
Baulkham Hills BC 2153
linda@soccernsw.com.au
P 02 8814 4415
F 02 9629 3770

Closing Date for applications is 5pm, Friday 12th December, 2003.

State League declared for season 2004

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE

Dulwich Hill
Fairfield Bulls
Fraser Park Dragons
Hajduk Wanderers United
Hurstville City Minotaurs
Hurstville ZSC
Macarthur Rams
Manly Warringah Dolphins
MSC Liverpool
Northern Tigers
Ryde City
Stanmore Hawks
Sutherland Sharks
Sydney University

DIVISION ONE

Bathurst '75
Belmore Hercules
Camden Tigers
Fairfield City Lions
Hills United
Liverpool Bossy
Mt Druitt Town
Mt Pritchard
Nepean Association
Schofields Scorpions
The Wanderers
Western Rage
White City
Wollongong United

DIVISION TWO

Auburn Star
Blacktown Association
Greenisland SC
Greystanes SC
Hakoah
Hawkesbury City
Inter Lions
Prospect United
Springwood SC
Southern Star Sharks
University of NSW
Western Red Devils

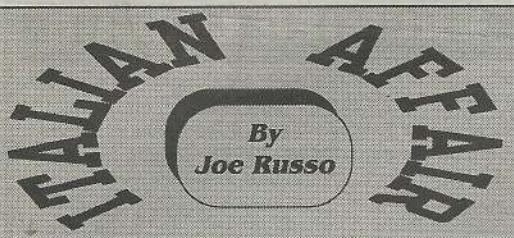
DIVISION THREE

Balmain FC
Colo Colo
Earlwood Wanderers
East Coast Magic
Gazy Lansvale
Gladesville United
Kellyville Kolts
Lithgow Workmen
Roosters FC
Sporting SCC
Sydney Cedars
Trasandinos

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ITALIAN SERIE A



By
Joe Russo

It is hard to fathom how a team can be so hot and cold in such a short period of time. Inter, who in Round 11 of the Serie A defeated Juventus 3-1 away in Turin, are such a team.

Two weeks ago they were mercilessly defeated 5-1 by Arsenal in the Champions League clash at the San Siro in Milan and then four days later they come out and beat Juventus, who were unbeaten until then in the Serie A, at the Delle Alpi Stadium in Turin.

Very few would have been willing to bet on Inter beating Juventus in a game that is known as the Derby of Italy.

Juventus, undefeated Serie A leaders, and Inter without Vieri, Cannavaro, Coco and Materazzi and playing away after an embarrassing loss to Arsenal. It really was an incredible result.

Take nothing away from Inter because they thoroughly deserved to win and finally win away in Turin, a feat that they hadn't accomplished in over a decade.

♦♦♦

The recent draw in Lisbon for Euro 2004 in Portugal next European summer has appeared to favour Italy. The Azzurri are in Group C along with Sweden, Bulgaria and Denmark.

The top seeded team for Group C was Sweden who were arguably the less feared out of all the four top-seeded teams.

Bulgaria are no strangers to Italy. One only has to remember the 1994 World Cup semi final when the Azzurri beat Bulgaria thanks to a Roberto Baggio double.

Denmark, surprise tournament winners in 1992, complete the Group C quartet.

The bookmakers have already installed Italy as favourites to win their group and Giovanni Trapattoni's team will be hoping to go one better than Dino Zoff's team at Euro 2000 when a heart-breaking final loss to France denied Italy the trophy.

♦♦♦

Reggina are the fourth Serie A club to sack their coach this season.

Giancarlo Camolese, a former Torino coach when they were in the Serie A, has replaced Franco Colombo.

Inter replaced Hector Cuper with Alberto Zaccheroni, Empoli replaced Daniele Baldini with Attilio Perotti and Bologna replaced Francesco Guidolin with Carlo Mazzone only a couple of days before Round 1 of the Serie A got underway.

♦♦♦

UEFA has announced that from next season there will be an exchange program for referees, whereby the top whistle blowers from various countries can referee in domestic competitions abroad.

For instance Italy's top referee, Pierluigi Collina who did last year's World Cup final in Yokohama, could be seen in the English Premier League or Spain's La Liga. The EPL's top referee could be spotted in the Serie A and so forth.

England, Scotland, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy and Spain are the countries that have agreed to the exchange program.

One person who is delighted at UEFA's decision is the human headline, President of Perugia, Luciano Gaucci.

Gaucci, who for years has claimed that Italian referees victimise Perugia, has expressed his delight at the move and claimed that it would be the ideal solution to so many problems.

Gaucci claims that foreign referees would feel less pressure on them than Italian referees because they won't be exposed to all the media hype surrounding Italian football.

Flying in for match and then flying home straight away will mean they will manage to avoid the Italian media circus and criticism. For once it seems like Gaucci is making sense.

♦♦♦

Once again there is talk that the great Diego Maradona will have a testimonial match at the San Paolo Stadium in Naples.

However, organisers are said to be having the testimonial so that Maradona can raise enough money to pay off his existing debt with Italy's Tax Department.

A rich Chinese businessman had recently tried to organise a testimonial match in Naples for Maradona but had failed at the last minute (Maradona was already in Italy) to agree to terms with the little footballing maestro.

Others claim that Maradona's testimonial shouldn't be a game to clear an existing debt with the Tax Department but rather an expression of the city's love for a player who will forever be an icon in the city.

Napoli won two Scudettos (1987 and 1990) and a UEFA Cup (1989) when Maradona played for them. He left in 1991 under a cloud and has never returned to Naples since.

There are two things to consider here. Firstly, that Naples as a city still absolutely adores him and, secondly, Maradona wants to return there for a testimonial match provided it is well organised. However, it is this latter bit that will always be a problem in Italy.

♦♦♦

Meanwhile Sydney listeners can tune into 98.5 FM on Sunday nights at 10.00pm for all the latest soccer news.

CHIEVO 0 ROMA 3

A second-half goal spree gave Roma a 3-0 win at Chievo Verona and sent them level with AC Milan at the top of Serie A.

It was hard going in the first half at Verona before Fabio Capello's men swept aside Chievo with three goals in five, second half minutes.

First Totti slotted home a low cross from Brazilian full-back Mancini in the 67th minute and three minutes later returned the compliment with a perfect cross-field ball to Mancini who provided the required finish.

Just two minutes after that the game was all over when Mancini raided down Chievo's left and picked out Antonio Cassano who volleyed home.

LAZIO 2 JUVENTUS 0

Italian champions Juventus fell to their third defeat inside a week with a 2-0 loss to Lazio in Rome.

Marcello Lippi's side, beaten by Inter in Serie A a week ago and then by Galatasaray in the Champions League, are now four points behind leaders AC Milan.

Bernardo Corradi put Lazio ahead in the 21st minute with a beautifully angled, diving, near-post header from a Stefano Fiore cross.

Corradi turned Fiore's provider for the second goal on the stroke of halftime, racing on to a long ball from Paolo Negro and then finding Fiore with a neat pass inside which the midfielder confidently struck past Gianluigi Buffon.

EMPOLI 0 AC MILAN 1

AC Milan sit top alongside Roma after a 1-0 win at Empoli thanks to a superb 30-metre strike from Brazilian substitute Kaka.

Milan went close to an opener in the 37th minute when Rui Costa found Serie A's top scorer Andriy Shevchenko but the Ukrainian's volley was saved at point-blank range by Empoli keeper Luca Bucci.

Empoli had a goal disallowed a minute later when Antonio Di Natale's low shot squeezed under Milan keeper Dida and over the line but

SERIE B

Ascoli 4 Fiorentina 0, Atalanta 2 Bari 0, Avellino 0 Como 0, Cagliari 1 Verona 1, Livorno 2 Catania 2, Messina 4 Genoa 0, Palermo 2 Albinoleffe 1, Pescara 0 Vicenza 0, Salernitana 0 Treviso 0, Ternana 2 Piacenza 0, Torino 1 Triestina 1, Venezia 0 Napoli 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Atalanta	18	10	8	0	25	-10	38
2. Palermo	18	10	7	1	27	-12	37
3. Teramo	18	10	4	4	29	-19	34
4. Messina	18	8	6	4	27	-20	30
5. Livorno	18	7	9	2	22	-15	30
6. Torino	18	8	5	5	28	-18	29
7. Piacenza	18	7	6	5	16	-15	27
8. Cagliari	18	6	7	5	29	-20	25
9. Ascoli	18	6	7	5	23	-20	25
10. Catania	18	6	6	6	25	-22	24
11. Pescara	18	5	8	5	16	-18	23
12. Venezia	18	4	10	4	18	-19	22
13. Treviso	18	5	7	6	18	-21	22
14. Fiorentina	18	5	7	6	17	-22	22
15. Salernitana	18	5	6	7	12	-15	21
16. Napoli	18	3	12	3	12	-17	21
17. Triestina	18	4	8	6	24	-28	20
18. Albinoleffe	18	5	5	8	18	-25	20
19. Genoa	18	4	7	7	17	-26	19
20. Verona	18	3	9	6	22	-25	18
21. Vicenza	18	3	9	6	14	-18	18
22. Bari	18	3	6	9	21	-29	15
23. Como	18	3	5	10	13	-26	14
24. Avellino	18	1	6	11	16	-29	9

Tomasso Rocchi was spotted in an offside position by the linesman.

Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti introduced Kaka for Andrea Pirlo in the 75th minute and six minutes later the Brazilian won the game with a spectacular long-range strike which flew past the motionless Bucci.

BOLOGNA 3 ANCONA 2

Struggling Bologna recorded their first league win since September by beating bottom club Ancona.

Carlo Mazzone's side got off to a fortuitous start when Ancona's Brazilian defender Fabio Bilica turned the ball into his own net after just three minutes. Carlo Nervo then doubled the advantage with superb first-time strike from wide on the wing.

The win seemed safe when Giuseppe Signori notched his 184th career Serie A goal three minutes after the restart to make it 3-0. But an own goal by Bologna's Emanuele Troise put Ancona back in the game and then a curling shot from youngster Goran Pandev cut the deficit to 3-2.



Lazio's midfielder Stefano Fiore (left) and Juventus' midfielder Nicola Legrottaglie fight for the ball.

came off the crossbar and team mate Fabio Bazzani headed in the rebound for his sixth goal of the season, lifting Sampdoria up to seventh in the table.

UDINESE 1 REGGINA 0

A powerful volley three minutes from time from substitute Carsten Jancker gave Udinese their second consecutive league victory. The win lifts Udinese into the eighth spot while Reggina remain in the lower half of the table.

It was only Jancker's second goal in Serie A after joining Udinese during the close season of 2002.

FIXTURES

Sunday 14th December

Ancona	vs	Lazio
Bologna	vs	Inter
Brescia	vs	Empoli
Juventus	vs	Parma
Milan	vs	Siena
Perugia	vs	Sampdoria
Reggina	vs	Chievo
Roma	vs	Modena
Udinese	vs	Lecce

SERIE A

Empoli 0 AC Milan 1, Lazio 2 Juventus 0, Bologna 3 Ancona 2, Chievo 0 Roma 3, Inter Milan 2 Perugia 1, Lecce 1 Parma 2, Modena 1 Brescia 1, Sampdoria 2 Siena 1, Udinese 1 Reggina 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Roma	12	9	3	0	28	4	30
2 Milan	12	9	3	0	21	4	30
3 Juventus	12	8	2	2	26	14	26
4 Internazionale	12	7	4	1	22	7	25
5 Parma	12	7	3	2	21	12	24
6 Lazio	12	7	1	4	20	16	22
7 Sampdoria	12	5	4	3	13	11	19
8 Udinese	12	5	3	4	16	15	18
9 Modena	12	4	3	5	11	13	15
10 Siena	12	3	5	4	16	12	14
11 Chievo	12	4	2	6	13	18	14
12 Bologna	12	2	4	6	12	19	10
13 Reggina	12	1	7	4	10	20	10
14 Brescia	12	1	6	5	17	24	9



ENGLISH



NEWCASTLE UTD 1

LIVERPOOL 1

Both teams have their eye on the fourth Champions League place and they settled for a share of the spoils after an entertaining game at St James' Park.

Liverpool went ahead when Newcastle's Titus Bramble and Jonathan Woodgate got in an embarrassing tangle and Danny Murphy calmly converted after six minutes.

Newcastle levelled after 62 minutes when Alan Shearer rammed home his 13th league goal of the season from the penalty spot after Liverpool keeper Chris Kirkland felled Laurent Robert.

BIRMINGHAM CITY 0

BLACKBURN ROVERS 4

After a tepid first half, Rovers exploded into life. Midfielder Barry Ferguson broke the deadlock after 66 minutes and two minutes later Australian defender Lucas Neill made it 2-0.

Birmingham's Christophe Dugarry was then sent off for a second yellow card and Rovers ran riot, with Tugay and Paul Gallagher scoring late to complete a fine victory that lifted Rovers away from the drop zone.

FULHAM 2

BOLTON 1

Improving Bolton looked on course for another fine win after Kevin Davies volleyed them in front after 53 minutes.

But Fulham turned the match on its head with 15 minutes to go. First midfielder Sean Davis rattled in the equaliser and a minute later Argentine striker Facundo Sava grabbed the winner. Fulham's win cemented their position in fourth place, although they are well adrift of the leading trio.

LEEDS UTD 1

CHELSEA 1

Chelsea conceded their first goal in eight games when Claude Makelele gave Jermaine Pennant the ball and the on-loan winger rounded John Terry and William Gallas to score a fine opener for Leeds, who started the day bottom of the table.

Chelsea's expensive side roared forward after that and after Adrian Mutu and Damien Duff had gone close, the pair combined again to force an equaliser. Duff converted a rebound after 70 minutes to secure the point that kept the Londoners top for another week at least.

LEICESTER CITY 1

ARSENAL 1

Arsenal showed typical resilience to grind out a lead at Walkers Stadium when Brazilian Gilberto



Leeds' defender Michael Duberry (left) gets his head to the ball ahead of Chelsea striker Adrian Mutu.

Silva headed in a Dennis Bergkamp cross on the hour.

But it started to go wrong for Arsene Wenger's team when Silva's shot came back off a post and then Ashley Cole earned a red card for a two-footed tackle on Ben Thatcher.

The worst was yet to come though as Leicester pumped a long ball into the box in the dying seconds and Craig Hignett forced home City's equaliser.

MANCHESTER UTD 4

ASTON VILLA 0

United fans were glad to see manager Alex Ferguson in the dugout after his treatment for a minor heart problem and Villa offered little resistance in a one-sided encounter.

Ruud van Nistelrooy linked well with Kleberson to score United's first after 16 minutes and added the second on the stroke of halftime with a sharp turn and shot.

United welcomed back Paul Scholes from injury in the second half and two goals in stoppage time by Diego Forlan, the first a ferocious shot, the second a neat end to a fine move, sealed an easy win.

MIDDLESBROUGH 0

PORTSMOUTH 0

Defender Danny Mills hit the bar for Middlesbrough and Portsmouth midfielde Steve Stone was sent off for two yellow cards in an otherwise poor match at the Riverside.

Pompey's run of games without an away Premiership goal is well into its third month but that will not bother boss Harry Redknapp who saw his side play out the last 13 minutes with 10 men after Steve Stone's sending-off.

TOTTENHAM 5

WOLVERHAMPTON 2

Wolves slipped to bottom of the table again after a chastening loss instigated by Spurs' Irish striker Robbie Keane, who scored a hat-trick.

Keane beat the offside trap to open the scoring on 29 minutes but straight from the restart Paul Ince bundled in an equaliser for Wolves.

Freddie Kanoute headed Spurs back in front before Keane, with a volley and then a simple tap-in, killed Wolves off. Alex Rae scored for the visitors to make it 4-2 but Stephane Dalmat's last-minute screamer ensured silky Spurs had the last word.

EVERTON 0

MANCHESTER CITY 0

Everton missed the best chances while City extended their scoreless league run to four games in a match that will not live long in the memory.

Everton midfielder Lee Carlsey fluffed a great



Liverpool midfielder Dietmar Hamann (left) tussles with Newcastle United's Laurent Robert.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Birmingham City 0 Blackburn 4, Fulham 2 Bolton 1, Leeds Utd 1 Chelsea 1, Leicester City 1 Arsenal 1, Manchester Utd 4 Aston Villa 0, Middlesbrough 0 Portsmouth 0, Newcastle Utd 1 Liverpool 1, Tottenham 5 Wolverhampton 2, Everton 0 Manchester City 0, Southampton 3 Charlton 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	15	11	3	1	29	10	36
Arsenal	15	10	5	0	29	11	35
Man Utd	15	11	1	3	29	9	34
Fulham	15	7	4	4	26	19	25
Liverpool	15	6	4	5	22	16	22
Charlton	15	6	4	5	22	20	22
Newcastle	15	5	6	4	21	20	21
Southampton	15	5	5	5	13	11	20
Birmingham	15	5	5	5	12	18	20
Man City	15	5	4	6	22	19	19
Middlesbrough	15	5	4	6	12	15	19
Tottenham	15	5	3	7	18	20	18
Bolton	15	4	6	5	14	21	18
Blackburn	15	5	2	8	23	24	17
Leicester	15	4	4	7	23	23	16
Portsmouth	15	4	4	7	17	20	16
Everton	15	3	5	7	15	19	14
Aston Villa	15	3	5	7	11	21	14
Leeds	15	3	3	9	13	34	12
Wolverhampton	15	2	5	8	11	32	11

FIRST DIVISION

Burnley 3 Sheffield Utd 2, Crewe 1 Gillingham 1, Ipswich 2 Derby County 1, Millwall 0 Norwich 0, Preston 4 Crystal Palace 1, Stoke 2 Cardiff 3, Walsall 1 Bradford 0, Watford 1 Notts Forest 1, West Bromwich 1 West Ham 1, Wigan 0 Reading 2, Wimbledon 1 Rotherham 2, (Coventry vs Sunderland - Tuesday AEDT)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Brom	21	12	5	4	32	18	41
Norwich	22	11	7	4	30	20	40
Ipswich	22	11	5	6	43	32	38
Sheff Utd	21	11	4	6	33	24	37
Reading	22	11	4	7	29	23	37
Wigan	22	9	8	5	29	23	35
Cardiff	21	9	7	5	37	23	34
West Ham	21	8	10	3	28	17	34
Sunderland	21	9	7	5	24	17	34
Preston	21	9	4	8	30	24	31
Millwall	22	7	8	7	24	23	29
Nottm Forest	22	7	7	8	34	31	28
Crewe	21	8	4	9	22	25	28
Burnley	22	7	7	8	32	36	28
Walsall	21	7	6	8	24	23	27
Gillingham	22	7	6	9	28	35	27
Rotherham	22	6	8	8	20	29	26
Coventry	21	5	10	6	26	28	25
Watford	22	6	7	9	23	27	25
Crystal Palace	21	5	7	9	24	35	22
Derby	22	5	7	10	24	36	22
Stoke	21	5	5	11	24	32	20
Bradford	21	4	5	12	19	32	17
Wimbledon	22	4	2	16	23	49	14

FA Cup Second Round

Bournemouth 1 Accrington Stanley 1, Bristol City 0 Barnsley 0, Cheltenham 3 Leyton Orient 1, Colchester 1 Aldershot 0, Gravesham 1 Notts County 2, Hornchurch 0 Tramore 1, Macclesfield 1 Cambridge 1, Northampton 4 Weston-Super-Mare 1, Oldham 2 Blackpool 5, Peterborough 3 Grimsby 2, Rochdale 0 Luton 2, Scunthorpe 2 Sheffield Wednesday 2, Southend 3 Lincoln 0, Swansea 2 Stevenage 1, Telford 3 Brentford 0, Woking 0 Kidderminster 3, Yeovil 5 Barnet 1, Wycombe 1 Mansfield 1, Burton Albion 0 Hartlepool 1, Port Vale 0 Scarborough 1.

Replay dates for second round matches
December 16 - 17

Accrington Stanley vs Bournemouth, Barnsley vs Bristol City, Cambridge vs Macclesfield, Mansfield vs Wycombe, Sheffield Wednesday vs Scunthorpe.

Third Round

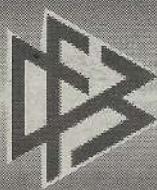
January 3 - 4

Wimbledon vs Stoke, Cardiff vs Sheffield United, Wycombe vs Mansfield vs Burnley, Crewe vs Telford, Bristol City vs Barnsley vs Scunthorpe vs Sheffield Wednesday, Portsmouth vs Blackpool, Northampton vs Rotherham, Fulham vs Cheltenham, Manchester City vs Leicester City, Southampton vs Newcastle United, Yeovil vs Liverpool, Birmingham City vs Blackburn, Notts Forest vs West Bromwich, Watford vs Chelsea, Kidderminster vs Wolverhampton, Gillingham vs Charlton, Swansea vs Macclesfield, Leeds vs Arsenal, Tottenham vs Crystal Palace, Aston Villa vs Man. United, Southend vs Scarborough, Sunderland vs Hartlepool, Tramore vs Bolton, Preston vs Reading, Wigan vs West Ham, Middlesbrough vs Notts County, Ipswich vs Derby, Coventry vs Peterborough, Everton vs Norwich, Bournemouth or Accrington Stanley vs Colchester, Bradford vs Luton, Millwall vs Walsall.

FIXTURES

Saturday 13th
December

Arsenal	vs	Blackburn
Aston Villa	vs	Wolverhampton
Chelsea	vs	Bolton
Leeds	vs	Fulham
Leicester	vs	Birmingham
Liverpool	vs	Southampton
Man Utd	vs	Man City
Middlesbrough	vs	Charlton
Newcastle	vs	Tottenham
Portsmouth	vs	Everton



German Bundesliga



VFB Stuttgart retained the lead in the Bundesliga with a dull 0-0 home draw against Hamburg.

Stuttgart extended their unbeaten run to 15 games and stayed two points clear of second-placed Werder Bremen, who drew 1-1 at home with champions Bayern Munich.

It was the second consecutive goalless draw for Stuttgart, who showed little initiative in a game of few highlights.

Bremen would have gone top had they held on to the 58th-minute lead given to them from the penalty spot by Brazilian striker Ailton, his 14th goal of the season.

But Peru forward Claudio Pizarro deflected in a Willy Sagnol cross eleven minutes from time to keep Bayern within six points of the lead.

Hertha Berlin drew 1-1 at Borussia Dortmund in the first game for caretaker coach Andreas Thom, who took over after Huub Stevens was sacked following Wednesday's 6-1 thrashing by Werder Bremen in the German Cup.

FIXTURES

Saturday 13th December

Wolfsburg	vs	Hannover
Kaiserslautern	vs	Schalke
M'gladbach	vs	B.Dortmund
Hertha Berlin	vs	1860 Munich
Hansa Rostock	vs	FC Cologne
B.Leverkusen	vs	Werder Bremen
B.Munich	vs	VFB Stuttgart
Hamburg SV	vs	Freiburg
Bochum	vs	E.Frankfurt



Stuttgart's Timo Wenzel (right) jumps for the ball with Hamburg's Naohiro Takahara.

Brazilian midfielder Leandro put Dortmund in the lead in the 69th minute but Hertha were then rewarded for a spirited display when defender Alexander Madlung equalised in the 79th minute.

The capital club, who had started the season dreaming of qualifying for the Champions League, remain second from bottom.

Bochum missed their chance to leapfrog

Dortmund and move into the top five, but lost 4-2 at Freiburg.

Roda Antar bagged a hat-trick for the home side while Wilfried Sanou also found the net for the home side.

Vahid Hashemian and Peter Madsen bagged goals for the visitors, who trailed 3-2 at the break, before Antar's decisive goal 11 minutes from time.

Another hat-trick hero was Wolfsburg's Fernando Baiano, whose three goals secured a 4-1 comeback home win against Kaiserslautern.

The visitors took the lead through Aleksander Knavs after 13 minutes before Baiano's hat-trick made it 3-1 after 55 minutes and Stefan Schnoor rounded out the scoring in the 90th minute.

Eintracht Frankfurt missed the chance to escape the bottom three as they drew 2-2 at home with Hannover, Alexander Schur giving the home side the lead before Daniel Stendel's equaliser 60 seconds later.

Frankfurt regained the lead through Ervin Skela before Thomas Christiansen scored the visitors' second equaliser of the game three minutes from time with a penalty.

Hansa Rostock posted a 1-4 away win at 1860 Munich, Martin Max taking his season's tally to 12 goals with two. Rene Rydlewicz and Martin Max also netted for the visitors despite Hansa's opener through Markus Weissenberger's after three minutes.

Bayer Leverkusen created more opportunities than hosts Cologne but were unimpressive and stay in third place, three points behind leaders Stuttgart, after a 0-0 draw. Cologne remain bottom.

Finally Midfielder Jochen Seitz was the match

winner for Schalke in the 2-1 win over Moenchengladbach.

Seitz opened the scoring after a few seconds before presenting the home side with victory with a powerful 20-metre drive on 54 minutes.

Schalke climb to ninth while Moenchengladbach, who had equalised through Czech midfielder Ivo Ulrich two minutes from the break, stay fourth from bottom.

VfL Wolfsburg	4	Kaiserslautern	1.
Eintracht Frankfurt	2	Hannover 96	2.
Freiburg	4	VfL Bochum	2.
Stuttgart	0	Werder Bremen	1.
Hamburg	0	Bayern Munich	1.
1860 Munich	1	Hansa Rostock	4.
Borussia Dortmund	1	Hertha Berlin	1.
Cologne	0	Bayer Leverkusen	0.
Moenchengladbach	1.		

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Stuttgart	15	10	5	0	22	3	35
2 Bremen	15	10	3	2	39	19	33
3 Leverkusen	15	9	5	1	30	12	32
4 Bayern	15	8	5	2	33	19	29
5 Dortmund	15	7	3	5	27	22	24
6 Bochum	15	6	4	5	27	20	22
7 Wolfsburg	15	7	0	8	32	30	21
8 Freiburg	15	6	3	6	23	27	21
9 Schalke	15	5	5	5	20	22	20
10 Hanover	15	5	4	6	27	33	19
11 Hansa	15	5	3	7	23	23	18
12 1860 Munich	15	5	3	7	16	23	18
13 Hamburg	15	4	5	6	16	26	17
14 Kaiserslautern	15	5	2	8	19	28	14
15 M'gladbach	15	3	4	8	14	22	13
16 Eintracht	15	3	3	9	14	24	12
17 Hertha	15	2	6	7	14	29	12
18 Kolin	15	2	3	10	11	25	9



Spanish Primera Liga



Real Madrid snatched their first league victory in 20 years at the Nou Camp after a goal in each half from Brazilians Roberto Carlos and Ronaldo gave them a 2-1 win over arch-rivals Barcelona.

Roberto Carlos broke the deadlock towards the end of an evenly matched first half when he cracked in with a ferocious drive and former Barcelona idol Ronaldo added a second with a powerful drilled shot on 74 minutes.

But Real had to endure a nervous finish after Dutch striker Patrick Kluivert pulled one back for Barca when he fired in a brilliant header from a corner seven minutes from time.

Barca now trail Real by 13 points in the table.

Valencia sit just two points behind Real following a 2-1 win over Athletic Bilbao.

Vicente gave the home side the lead on 18 minutes before Ezquerro equalised for Bilbao seven minutes after the break.

Vicente gave Valencia their second lead of the night on 65 minutes before teammate Francisco



Real Madrid's Ronaldo (centre), fights for the ball against Barcelona trio Luis Garcia (left), Thiago Motta and Carles Puyol.

Rufete missed a golden chance to seal the points after missing an 88th minute penalty.

Soon after Bilbao was given a lifeline when awarded a 90th minute penalty however Ismael Urzaiz fluffed his shot.

Defender Joan Capdevila gave Deportivo their first win in four outings and made sure they stayed in touch at the top when he headed in the only goal of the game midway through the second half.

Capdevila popped up in the crowded area to nod in a Albert Luque free kick on 59 minutes.

Australian John Aloisi was the star of the show at El Sadar as Osasuna continued their remarkable start to the season with a classy 3-2 win over Celta Vigo.

The Socceroo striker scored the opener with a sharp header just before the half-hour mark and although Celta levelled eight minutes later through

Jose Ignacio, he grabbed his second with an excellent low drive after the break.

Aloisi capped a great performance by setting up strike partner Ibrahima Bakayoko for his side's third on 74 minutes and although Celta pulled another one back for Barca in injury time the Osasuna win was never in doubt.

Real Betis ended their six-match winless run with an emphatic 0-4 win at struggling Real Sociedad.

Midfielder Capi opened after just five minutes with a fine glancing header and Spain winger Joaquin added another when he completed a mesmerising run by drilling in under Sander Westerveld.

Betis struck again early in the second half through defender Juanito before Joaquin completed the rout on 59 minutes later with another fine solo effort.

Real Mallorca continued their remarkable revival under new coach Luis Aragones with a 1-0 win over in-form Valladolid to notch their fifth league victory in a row.

Striker Fernando Correa poached the only goal of the game when he drilled home a rebound in the 15th minute after Valladolid keeper Albano Bizzarri had palmed a stinging shot from Brazilian midfielder Nene into his path.

Atletico Madrid bounced back from their defeat against city rivals Real in midweek to record a 2-0 win over basement club Espanyol.

Teenage striker Fernando Torres redirected a Rodrigo shot into the net midway through the first half and made sure of the win when he slotted in from the penalty spot 15 minutes from time to take his tally for the season to nine.

There was a morale-boosting result for Albacete, who moved out of the relegation zone thanks to an emphatic 4-0 win over Racing Santander.

Striker Carlos Aranda scored his fourth goal in three games with a penalty just before halftime.

Uruguayan forward Antonio Pacheco finished off a flowing move early in the second half before midfielder Ludovic Delporte made it 3-0. Defender Juanma completed the scoring a minute from time.

Murcia threw away the chance to claim their second win of the season after drawing 1-1 with Villarreal.

Barcelona	1	Real Madrid	2	Deportivo	1
Malaga	0	Osasuna	3	Celta Vigo	2
Real Sociedad	0	Real Betis	4	Albacete	4
Santander	0	Atletico Madrid	2	Espanyol	0
Murcia	1	Villarreal	1	Mallorca	1
Valladolid	0	Sevilla	3	Real Zaragoza	2
Sevilla	2	Athletic Bilbao	1		

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Real Madrid	15	10	3	2	31	16	33
2 Valencia	15	9	4	2	29	12	31
3 Deportivo	15	9	3	3	23	11	30
4 Osasuna	15	7	5	3	18	12	26
5 Atletico	15	8	1	6	19	18	25
6 Mallorca	15	7	2	6	19	22	23
7 Sevilla	15	5	6	4	23	18	21
8 Athletic	15	6	3	6	19	18	21
9 Villarreal	15	5	6	4	15	16	21
10 Valladolid	15	5	5	5	19	22	20
11 Malaga	15	6	2	7	18	18	20
12 Barcelona							



Dutch Eredivisie

Mateja Kezman scored four goals to power PSV Eindhoven to a 7-0 battering of Volendam in the Dutch first division.

Kezman, who has gone 13 consecutive Champions League matches without a goal, opened the scoring after 12 minutes and struck again with three goals in eight minutes early in the second half.

Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink scored twice and John de Jong was also on target as the hosts warmed up for their midweek Champions League clash with Deportivo La Coruna.

Kezman and Hesselink gave PSV a 2-0 half-time lead and they ran riot after the break, adding a further five goals and Kezman was even replaced before the hour mark having run the Volendam defence ragged.

RBC Roosendaal continued their march up the table with a narrow 1-0 win over AZ Alkmaar.

Edwin de Graaf scored the decider in the 63rd minute to prevent their third-placed opponents from closing the gap on Ajax and PSV Eindhoven above them.

RBC were forced to play the last 15 minutes with ten men following the dismissal of Tininho.

Utrecht produced a fine performance to make a mockery out of Willem II's superb home record with a 2-0 win.

Willem have won six out of seven at home this term, while Utrecht have won just once on their travels, but they stunned Willem by taking the lead on the hour mark through Sander Keller.

Hans van der Haar added the second in the 71st minute to condemn the Tilburg club to only their second defeat of the campaign in front of their own fans.

NEC Nijmegen were left frustrated for a third straight week after a 1-1 draw against RKC Waalwijk thanks to a late goal from Serginho Greene.

NEC came into the game on a four-match losing streak but were

close to gaining maximum points with a 1-0 lead after Rob Wielaert's 58th minute penalty, but Greene equalised two minutes from the end to leave NEC with just 13 points from 14 games.

Robin van Persie scored twice as Feyenoord thrashed lowly ADO Den Haag 4-1 to keep up the pressure on the top three teams in the Eredivisie.

The visitors opened the scoring early on through Cedric van der Gun's 13th-minute strike, but Feyenoord hit back to lead 2-1 at the break.

Van Persie equalised ten minutes after Den Haag's opener, and then on the stroke of half-time, Kees van Wonderen gave the hosts the lead.

Seconds after the restart, Van Persie grabbed his second to make it 3-1, and effectively secure all three points, before Sebastian Pardo completed the rout with Feyenoord's fourth goal in the 57th minute.

Vitesse Arnhem achieved their first home win of the season in convincing style - beating Zwolle 5-2.

With just three points separating the bottom two clubs at the start of the day, the hosts increased the gap over their opponents following goals from Nick Hofs (2), Emile Mbamba, Gert Claessens and Johnny van Beukering.

Zwolle replied through Jaspar Tarak and Georgi Hristov, but defeat has now left them in deep trouble at the foot of the table.

Gerald Sibon struck twice as Heerenveen recorded a thrilling 3-2 win at NAC Breda.

In a frantic opening to the clash, Sibon gave the visitors the lead but just seconds later Ronnie Venema put the ball through his own goal to put the hosts back on level terms.

Sibon netted his second after 15 minutes to restore Heerenveen's advantage, and then in the dying seconds of the first half, Paul de Lange made it 3-1 to the visitors.

GREEK ETHNIKI KATIGORIA

Olympiakos extended its lead at the top of the ladder after a 1-0 win over Halkidona, coupled with a disappointing draw for bitter rivals Panathinaikos.

Predrag Djordjevic bagged the only goal for Olympiakos from the spot on 40 minutes as a valiant Halkidona pressed for an equaliser late on.

Olympiakos' lead at the top is four points after cross-town rivals Panathinaikos were unable to breakdown a resilient Akratitos outfit despite creating numerous chances.

Egaleo came from a goal down to record a comfortable 3-1 home win over Aris, who took a surprise lead on three minutes from Pandelidis.

The lead lasted until just the 25th minute when Mparkoglou equalised at 1-1 before putting the home side in front after converting from the spot on 88 minutes. Fotakis sealed the points for third placed Egaleo with a 90th minute strike.

OFI Crete posted the only away win of the round after a come from behind 1-2 win at Kallithea.

Nikos Liberopoulos was first on the scoresheet with a 15th minute strike before Ioannis Okkas made it 2-0 on the half hour mark. Ampionsah rounded out the scoring with a 74th minute strike.

PAOK sit in fourth just one point behind Egaleo after a 2-0 home win against ninth-placed Panionios.

Giorgios Koutsis put the hosts ahead after just two minutes before Giasemi sealed the victory over with a strike 13 minutes into the



Predrag Djordjevic was Olympiakos hero with his penalty that pushed the Reds to out-right first spot.

Kallithea 1-2 OFI, Ionikos 4-2 Paniliakos, AEK 3-0 Xanthi, Iraklis 2-1 Proodeftiki, Egaleo 3-1 Aris, PAOK 2-0 Panionios, Akratitos 0-0 Panathinaikos, Olympiacos 1-0 Halkidona

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Ajax	13	11	1	1	38	14	34
2PSV	14	10	3	1	41	12	33
3Alkmaar	15	9	2	4	28	17	29
4Feyenoord	14	8	3	3	28	17	27
5Utrecht	14	6	4	4	18	17	22
6Heerenveen	14	7	1	6	17	17	22
7Willem II	14	6	3	5	23	23	21
8Roda	13	5	5	3	23	15	20
9Roosendaal	14	5	5	4	13	14	20
10Wente	14	6	1	7	25	26	19
11Groningen	14	5	4	5	20	22	19
12Waalwijk	14	4	4	6	18	19	16
13NAC	14	4	2	8	20	21	14
14NEC	14	4	1	9	16	27	13
15Volendam	14	3	4	7	17	35	13
16Vitesse	14	2	6	6	23	28	12
17Den Haag	15	2	4	9	12	34	10
18Zwolle	14	1	3	10	8	30	6

PSV Eindhoven 7 Volendam 0, Willem II 0 Utrecht 2, NEC Nijmegen 1 RKC Waalwijk 1, Feyenoord 4 Den Haag 1, Vitesse Arnhem 5 Zwolle 2, NAC Breda 2 Heerenveen 5, RBC Roosendaal 1 AZ Alkmaar 0 (Ajax vs Roda JC - Cancelled).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Ajax	13	11	1	1	38	14	34
2PSV	14	10	3	1	41	12	33
3Alkmaar	15	9	2	4	28	17	29
4Feyenoord	14	8	3	3	28	17	27
5Utrecht	14	6	4	4	18	17	22
6Heerenveen	14	7	1	6	17	17	22
7Willem II	14	6	3	5	23	23	21
8Roda	13	5	5	3	23	15	20
9Roosendaal	14	5	5	4	13	14	20
10Wente	14	6	1	7	25	26	19
11Groningen	14	5	4	5	20	22	19
12Waalwijk	14	4	4	6	18	19	16
13NAC	14	4	2	8	20	21	14
14NEC	14	4	1	9	16	27	13
15Volendam	14	3	4	7	17	35	13
16Vitesse	14	2	6	6	23	28	12
17Den Haag	15	2	4	9	12	34	10
18Zwolle	14	1	3	10	8	30	6



Scottish Premier League

Leaders Celtic stayed five points clear at the top of the Scottish Premier League after both they and arch rivals Rangers secured wins.

Celtic made it 14 consecutive wins in the league with a 2-0 victory away to Livingston.

England hopefuls Chris Sutton and Alan Thompson netted the goals that put the Bhoys two wins clear of arch rivals Rangers.

After a goalless first half at Almondvale, Thompson set up Sutton for the opener three minutes after the break.

The former Bolton star played the ball up to Sutton who turned to leave Oscar Rubio for dead before drilling a low shot into the bottom corner.

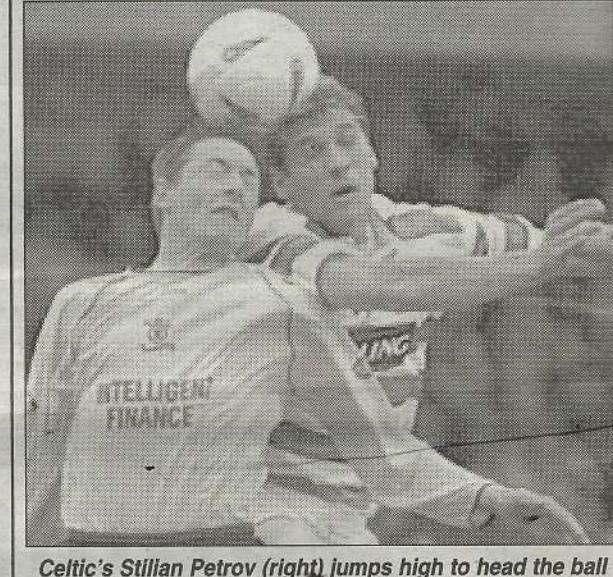
The Tynecastle side had fought back from a goal down when Alan Maybury cancelled out Derek Young's opener but a Scott Wilson header won the points for the Pars.

With a minute to go, Hearts could have snatched a share of the spoils when Andy Webster set up Weir for the shot but he stabbed his effort wide of the target.

Crisis club Dundee were sent spinning to a 2-1 home defeat by Kilmarnock.

Kris Boyd's eight minutes before half-time turned out to be the winner.

Colin Nish had earlier given the visitors an eighth-minute lead before Francois Dubourdeau brought down Nacho Novo to concede a penalty which the Spaniard



Celtic's Stiliyan Petrov (right) jumps high to head the ball away from Livingston's David McNamee.

Thompson wrapped up the win five minutes from time with a stunning volley.

The spotlight was then turned on Rangers who were entertaining Dundee United at Ibrox.

A Nuno Capucho strike gave them the lead and Peter Lovenkrands quickly made it 2-0 from close range.

However, after Emerson had seen his penalty saved by Paul Gallacher, the Gers' former star Billy Dodds pulled one back after the break and the hosts had to endure some anxious moments before completing a 2-1 win.

Hearts' poor run continued when they slumped to a 2-1 defeat at the hands of Dunfermline at East End Park.

converted himself in the 32nd minute.

A John Paul McBride goal after 58 minutes gave bottom club Partick Thistle their first victory of the season in a 1-0 home win over Motherwell.

The Jags had only two draws to their name after 14 league games however McBride's powerful drive from the edge of the box past Motherwell keeper Gordon Marshall, proved enough to give the Maryhill men those coveted three points and a glimmer of hope for the rest of the season.

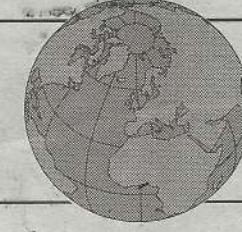
Two goals in the last five minutes from Scott Booth enabled Aberdeen to pick up three valuable points with a 3-1 win over Hibernian.

Livingston 0 Celtic 2, Rangers 2 Dundee Utd 1, Dunfermline 2 Hearts 1, Dundee 1 Kilmarnock 2, Aberdeen 3 Hibernian 1, Partick 1 Motherwell 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Celtic	15	14	1	0	48	5	43
2Rangers	15	12	2	1	39	12	38
3Hearts	15	8	2	5	23	19	26
4Dunfermline	15	6	5	4	18	20	23
5Motherwell	15	5	5	5	17	18	20
6Kilmarnock	15	6	2	7	22	31	20
7Livingston	15</td						



WORLD



French Ligue 1

Monaco took another step towards the Ligue 1 title after returning from Marseille with a 1-2 win.

It was not all plain-sailing for Didier Deschamps side, though, and they needed to come from a goal down to secure the win.

maximum points.

An own goal by Stephane Pichot gave the hosts an eighth-minute lead and Juan Pablo Francia doubled the advantage seven minutes later.

Matt Moussilou pulled a goal back three



Marseille duo Fabio Celestini (left) and Brahim Hemdani (right) fight for the ball with Monaco striker Dado Psro.

Mido struck two minutes before the break to give Marseille the advantage but they were pegged back in the 57th minute when Sebastien Squillaci found the back of the net.

Eight minutes after that Ludovic Giuly turned the ball home to give Monaco the lead and, ultimately, the victory.

Lyon kept up their hunt for the Ligue 1 title with a hard-fought victory over strugglers Metz.

Jonathan Jager put the visitors ahead in the 21st minute, but Lyon pulled level five minutes later when Peguy Luyindula popped up with the equaliser.

Brazilian defender Edmilson then put the hosts in front two minutes after the interval, and that was how it stayed.

While the top sides in France just keep on winning, little Sochaux continue to amaze.

The town has a population of around 5,000 but its football team is proving that big is not always beautiful as they won 3-0 at Lens to add another fine win to their series of stunning results this term.

Francileudo Santos fired Sochaux ahead after 14 minutes, Jeremy Mathieu and Francileudo again then sealed victory for Guy Lacombe's team who move into the top five.

Paris St Germain's three game win streak came to a halt after a 1-1 draw at Rennes, with Swiss striker Alexander Frei earning a point for the hosts.

PSG came into the game with three wins in their last four matches and they were on course for another success after Fabrice Fiorese's goal four minutes after half-time broke the deadlock.

Auxerre are fifth after Djibril Cisse scored the winner in a 2-1 away win against Ajaccio.

Cisse's international team-mate Philippe Mexes put the visitors ahead, Mamadou Bagayoko equalised for the Corsicans but Cisse pounced to grab a 65th minute winner.

Strasbourg ended a run of six games without a victory as they blitzed Bastia with three first half goals, eventually running out 4-2 winners.

Danijel Ljuboja, Ulrich Le Pen, Mamadou Niang and Fabrice Ehret netted for the home side, with Youssouf Hadji scoring twice for Bastia.

Bordeaux scored two early goals and then survived a second-half onslaught from Lille to earn

Lyon 2 Metz 1, Marseille 1 Monaco 2, Bordeaux 2 Lille 1, Nantes 1 Toulouse 1, Lens 0 Sochaux 3, Stade Rennes 1 PSG 1, Ajaccio 1 Auxerre 2, Strasbourg 4 Bastia 2, Le Mans 2 Guingamp 0, Nice 2 Montpellier 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Monaco	16	12	3	1	30	13	39
2 Lyon	16	10	3	3	31	13	33
3 PSG	17	9	4	4	22	14	31
4 Sochaux	16	9	3	4	25	16	30
5 Auxerre	17	9	2	6	28	17	29
6 Lens	17	9	1	7	16	24	28
7 Marseille	16	9	0	7	23	17	27
8 Nice	16	6	7	3	15	14	25
9 Strasbourg	17	6	5	6	26	23	23
10 Bordeaux	16	6	5	5	15	14	23
11 Nantes	17	7	2	8	17	17	23
12 Bastia	17	6	4	7	23	28	22
13 Montpellier	16	6	3	7	23	24	21
14 Rennes	17	4	7	6	18	18	19
15 Lille	17	4	6	7	18	23	18
16 Ajaccio	17	4	4	9	15	24	16
17 Metz	16	4	3	9	13	18	15
18 Guingamp	17	4	2	11	15	27	14
19 Mans	17	3	5	9	14	27	14
20 Toulouse	17	2	5	10	12	28	11

Belgian Jupiler League

A goal from Ivica Mornar was enough to earn Anderlecht a 1-0 win over Genk and maintain their lead at the top of the Belgian first division.

Mornar headed home on the stroke of half-time from a cross by Aruna Dindane after he intercepted a pass from Genk defender Soley Seyfo.

Anderlecht had the better first half but once Anderlecht, who play Bayern Munich in the Champions League on Thursday (AEDT), took the lead they comfortably controlled the match.

Anderlecht have 40 points, eight ahead of Standard Liege, who beat champions Club Bruges 3-1. Emile Mpenza opened the scoring for Standard on 14 minutes and midfielder Almani Moreira added a second goal six minutes later.

Standard had more opportunities to score but had to wait until the last five minutes before substitute Papy Kimoto wrapped up the match. Timmy Simons scored a 79th-minute penalty for Bruges.

Excelsior Mouscron secured all three points with a comprehensive 3-0 win over struggling Charleroi.

Mbo Mpenza, Luigi Pieroni and Steve Dugardien all struck in the second half to leave Charleroi second from bottom.

Antwerp continue to struggle and are still embroiled in a relegation battle following their 1-0 defeat at home to Gent.

Tjorven De Brul scored the crucial goal two minutes into the second half to leave his side in seventh.

Tosin Dosommu's 42nd-minute goal earned Westerlo a 1-0 victory at Lierse while Germinal beat hosts Lokeren by the same score courtesy of a Victor De Olivera goal (26).

La Louviere and St Truidense played out a goalless draw, a result that leaves both sides in mid-table.

Marco Ne netted twice to help Beveren to an emphatic 4-0 win at Cercle Brugge.

The visitors, who had won just one of their previous seven games away from home this season, took the lead against their mid-

table opponents after 12 minutes through Ne, and Gilles Yapi Yapo doubled their advantage shortly before the half-hour mark.

Ne added a third a minute before half-time and Emmanuel Eboue completed the rout after 60 minutes.

Heusden-Zolder, who started the round at the foot of the table, moved up three places with a 2-1 win at fellow-strugglers Mons.

Anderlecht 1 Genk 0, Standard Liege 3 Club Bruges 1, Excelsior Mouscron 3 Charleroi 0, Antwerp 0 Gent 1, Lierse 0 Westerlo 1, Lokeren 0 Germinal 1, La Louviere 0 St Truidense 0, Cercle Bruges 0 Beveren 4, Mons-Bergen 1 Heusden-Zolder 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Anderlecht	15	13	1	1	38	11	40
2 Standard	15	10	2	3	31	12	32
3 Genk	15	8	3	4	30	19	27
4 Mouscron	15	7	5	3	27	17	26
5 Club Brugge	15	7	3	5	29	21	24
6 Germinal Beerschot	15	6	4	5	13	14	22
7 Westerlo	15	6	4	5	18	22	22
8 AA Gent	15	5	7	3	18	13	22
9 Sint-Truiden	15	5	6	4	18	20	21
10 La Louviere	15	4	8	3	20	17	20
11 Cercle Brugge	15	4	7	4	11	18	19
12 Beveren	15	6	0	9	20	27	18
13 Lierse	15	4	5	6	16	19	17
14 Lokeren	15	3	3	9	17	26	12
15 Heusden	15	3	3	9	13	24	12
16 Antwerp	15	3	3	9	11	30	12
17 Mons	15	2	6	7	12	23	12
18 Charleroi	15	2	4	9	7	16	10



FIFA WORLD RANKING

1 Brazil	852	1	0	1	0	51	Zimbabwe	555	48	-3	56	5
2 France	826	2	0	2	0	52	Kuwait	554	50	-2	83	31
3 Spain	785	3	0	3	-0	53	Ukraine	550	51	-2	45	-8
4 Argentina	750	4	0	5	1	54	Bosnia-Herzegovina	549	53	-1	87	33
5 Mexico	742	8	3	8	3	55	Congo DR	548	54	-1	65	10
6 Netherlands	740	5	-1	6	0	56	Latvia	545	69	13	78	22
7 Turkey	739	8	1	9	2	56	Mali	545	56	0	73	17
8 England	738	6	-2	7	-1	58	Wales	544	59	1	52	-6
9 Germany	736	7	-2	4	-5	59	Jordan	543	71	12	77	18
10 Czech Republic	735	11	1	15	5	60	Iceland	541	55	-5	58	-2
11 Italy	733	8	-3	13	2	61	Algeria	540	62	1	68	7
12 United States	732	12	0	10	-2	62	Oman	539	80	18	95	33
13 Denmark	714	14	1	12	-1	62	Cuba	539	57	-5	71	9
14 Cameroon	712	13	-1	16	2	62	Venezuela	539	67	5	69	7
15 Ireland Republic	706	15	0	14	-1	65	Austria	529	62	-3	54	-11
16 Belgium	696	16	0	17	1	66	Côte d'Ivoire	528	64	-2	64	

REAL MADRID 2003

